



Oswestry

Friends help Dave with climb challenge

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Welshpool

Bobbies on bikes thanks to support

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Property

The latest homes for sale in the area

Pages 19-30



Pub under threat in plans for housing

A VILLAGE pub is under threat after its owners applied for planning permission to turn it into houses.

A campaign has now been launched to save The Punch Bowl in Llandrinio, between Oswestry and Welshpool, which is still trading.

Former landlord and County Councillor Graham Brown, who represents Llandrinio, said the pub's owner Punch Taverns had submitted the application.

He said: "I have received an email from the planning department informing me that an application has been received to convert the Punch Bowl into two residential units and build two other properties on the rest of the land."

John Morris, who captains one of the pub's pool teams, has launched a petition to try to save the facility. He said: "I don't know if anything can be done about this but we have to give it a try. It's the only pub in the village and I hate the thought of losing it."

Mr Morris, 34, from Four Crosses, has set up a Facebook group to raise support for the campaign which is at [facebook.com/groups/246756718819915/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/246756718819915/)

Sarah Main, spokeswoman for Punch Taverns, said: "This pub forms part of our turnaround division, in which we have committed to review the future of our less sustainable pub businesses."

Record level of entries

A RECORD number of young musicians from across Shropshire, north Wales and the West Midlands have entered this year's Oswestry Youth Music Festival.

The festival will run from February 27 to March 2 with more than 300 talented young singers, instrumentalists, bands, choirs and orchestras entering this year.

Oswestry town councillor Martin Bennett, said: "The youth festival attracts a large numbers of entrants and the standard just gets better from year to year."

HEALTH SHAKE-UP IS ON THE CARDS

by Graham Breeze

DRAMATIC changes to the way health services are managed in Powys will take place following the publication of a Welsh Government report.

The Williams Commission investigated the delivery of public services in Wales and has recommended that Powys County Council should merge with Powys Teaching Health Board.

The report suggests that councils in Wales should merge leaving 10, 11 or 12 local authorities rather than the current 22.

Budget cuts planned by council are 'draconian'

BUDGET cuts planned by Powys County Council were criticised as draconian and unworkable by those attending a drop in consultation evening.

And Welshpool's Business Forum has passed a vote of no confidence in the county council after discussing the plans on Monday night.

"A motion of 'no confidence in the management of Powys County Council' was unanimously passed at the business forum meeting," said town clerk Robert Robinson. Scores of worried residents from a wide area were at the Town Hall in Welshpool last Thursday to find out more about the county council plans to tackle the unitary authority's financial shortfall.

Mr Robinson, said: "These proposals are draconian. Welshpool town councillors are extremely concerned that it may be expected to take over the running of many services, without the finances to do so. We have already taken over the public toilets in Welshpool."

Powys will remain independent but the commission says that because the county is a "special case" due to its large geographical area, there is a "synergy between the health board and the local authority."

The proposal has been warmly received by both organisations who issued a statement saying it will provide "service delivery and financial advantages for the county."

Unique

The report says: "Because of the unique characteristics of the county of Powys and the distinctive patterns of service delivery that this creates, we recommend that Powys County Council and Powys Teaching Health Board should merge. "This should be a two-stage process. The health board and the council, with the support of the Welsh Government, should immediately begin action to integrate all their governance, management and delivery structures.

"They should define these arrangements by the end of 2014, and implement them immediately thereafter."

A joint statement issued by council leader Councillor Barry Thomas and health board Chairman Mel Evans said: "A single public sector body for Powys could have significant service delivery and financial advantages for the county."

Scrum on down for top award



Pupils David Vaughan, Katie Swain, Thomas Morris, Daisy Evans, Carwyn Williams, Ffion Jones, Callum Edwards and Katie Till, from Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant school, celebrate after their award.

PUPILS at Llanrhaeadr Primary School have been celebrating after their school was named as the second best in Wales.

The school was runner-up to Maendy Primary School in Torfaen and ahead of 1,253 schools in a national table compiled by the Wales Online website.

All primary schools in Wales were ranked on a range of measures, including pupils' attainment at Key Stage 2, attendance rates and school finances and staffing.

Wendy Jones, headteacher at Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant School, said: "I suppose the biggest thing is the dedication of the staff and enthusiasm and support of staff, pupils and parents."

"They are very dedicated, as well as the governors. It's that community spirit that brings it all together and moves us forward."

Enthusiasm

"We have been to other schools and seen what they have done effectively and adapted that to our way of working."

"I teach every child in the school, know them personally and learn their strengths and areas for development."

"In a small school you have to have that teamwork with staff and parents."

Revamp of car park toilets on the cards

TOWN centre toilets in Oswestry could be demolished to make way for new facilities, including a visitor information centre.

Last year the loos, at the Central Car Park, were in danger of closing under Shropshire Council budget cuts almost two years ago.

But Oswestry Town Council rescued the building and has been running the toilets since April 2012.

Now town mayor, Councillor Chris Schofield has revealed that the site could be redeveloped.

"The town council is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the Central Car Park toilets and has installed a new paddle system for entering the building."

"However, over the last 12 months a number of problems have arisen with the building. We have been complimented on how clean it is kept but the building has areas of concern, such as tiles coming off."

He said a recent budget seminar looked at ways of retaining toilets on the car park.

He said several alternatives were discussed, including redeveloping the site to incorporate a visitor centre and public toilets.

"As councillors we felt it important that the toilets were retained but it was clear that the existing building needs replacing."

Life-saving fund boost

THE Oswestry & Border Chronicle's campaign to set up a network of life-saving defibrillators received a boost this week.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) approved part-funding for the first three machines and an Oswestry school handed over £505 for the "Keeping Oswestry Alive" campaign.

Now the first three defibrillators, aimed at providing rapid treatment for those suffering cardiac arrests, are set to be positioned thanks to the funding.

• Campaign - See Page 3

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NEWS

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Project aims to keep note of rare music

HUNDREDS of pieces of rare and out-of-print sheet music are looking for a home in Shropshire after the launch of a project to catalogue and archive the collection.

The Seville Music Archive Library has been set up as a non-profit charitable organisation with the aim of preserving out-of-print music for use by future generations.

Since setting up in October, volunteers have collected 800 pieces of organ, piano, choral and brass music, study scores and reference books.

Project manager Tom Evans, from West Felton, said: "We don't just want to be an online lending library - we have aspirations to have a premises in the near future, hold

regular events and support both young and old people in musical research."

The library has been named after early 7th century scholar and music theorist Isidore of Seville, who lived before musical notation was developed and said that "unless sounds are held by the memory of man, they perish, because they cannot be writ-

ten down." Mr Evans said: "Man has been publishing music in one form or another since 1457."

"However, we have now come to a stage where a lot of music is no longer printed in its original form. Our mission is to catalogue and store this music so it can be used by future generations to come."

Visit www.sevillelibrary.org.uk

Walkers enjoyed ramble by river

A GROUP of 18 members of Oswestry Ramblers went on a four-mile walk from Llanrhaeadr ym Mochant last weekend.

The party climbed out of the village and across fields to Cefn Coch, then down to Commins where they had coffee by the river.

The walk continued on the Moel Henfache side of valley and back down to the village.

The group will be walking again today (Thursday) when Diane Smith will be leading a moderate five-mile walk from Overton, through farmland and along quiet lanes.

On Sunday there will be a moderate six-mile walk around Llanymynech Hill and Llyncllys Nature reserve.

It will then descend to Llyncllys and returning to Llanymynech via the canal towpath.

Meet at Oswestry's Central car park in time for a 10am departure or call (01691) 661714.

Dramatic weather

PUPILS from Oswestry School welcomed an award-winning theatre company to perform an interactive play about the weather.

The pupils in reception to Year 4 welcomed Titch Theatre with their Edinburgh Festival Fringe award-winning play by Nick Pryor called 123 Splish!

The interactive play involves a character who does not like the weather.

Karen Lentink, head of the prep department, said: "Part of the drama included cream pies and a water pistol."

Cancer victim's climb nets £7,500 for charity

AN Oswestry man suffering from "pesky terminal cancer" has raised more than £7,500 in just three weeks, after a gruelling climb to the top of Rodney's Pillar on New Year's Eve.

David Lawson, 34, has enjoyed seeing the New Year in with friends on the top of the hill for the last 10 years.

After being diagnosed with an incurable form of cancer, which he refers to as a pesky terminal cancer, he thought that 2012/13 would be the last time he would make the trip. But he found the strength to make one last pilgrimage this year to help raise funds for a Shropshire based charity that helps children in Kenya.

Within a few hours of posting his fundraising page Davey's Midnight Madness - Let's build a Classroom - on his internet Facebook page his trek had raised the £3,000 in sponsorship that he initially set as his target to fund a class for the Kenyan Schools Project.

And as news of his challenge spread the figure rose to £7,500 by yesterday (Wednesday).

Mr Lawson, who is now being cared for at Severn Hospice, said the response had been fantastic.

"The reason I was so keen to make this one last effort before the cancer gets the best of me, was to try and help the Kenyan Schools

by Graham Breeze

Project, whose work has helped me keep my own problems in perspective and brought me such a lot of joy these last months.

The newspaper reporter said he could not have completed the walk without his "amazing" friends and said he could not have helped the charity without all those who donated.

"Getting me to the top of Rodney's Pillar for midnight on New Year's Eve was a real team effort, so I have to thank everyone for turning out to help, making sure all I had to do was to keep putting one foot in front of the other."

"In physical terms, this part of the cancer has been the most painful so far and yet what you guys have done here has made it one of the happiest moments of my life. That's an amazing gift you've given me and is something I will always cherish."

"I originally hoped we



David Lawson with his friends at Rodney's Pillar on New Year's Eve.

might eventually get somewhere near the £3,000 cost of building a classroom, but little did I anticipate everyone's generosity, passing that amount in less than 24 hours.

"I really don't know what to say to everyone. To have gone from nothing to almost the entire total in just a few hours was more than I could

take in and something I never imagined."

"Anything beyond the £3,000 cost of the classroom, up to £5,000, equips it with blackboards, desks, chairs and other items."

"That is the cherry on a rather amazing cake. I just want to thank everyone, the trouble is I just can't find words adequate to do it. It

has touched me in a way I can not easily put into words and personally brought me such pleasure to see everyone coming together to do something like this."

Anyone who wants to contribute can via the Just Giving page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Lets-Build-a-Classroom>



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NEWS

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Review of complaints suggests changes

A REVIEW of the public complaints process at Dyfed-Powys Police has recommended improvements in communication and dealing with complaints.

The review, by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon, recommends improvements in written communication and further discussion about the length of time taken by the police force to record public complaints.

But it also praises the thoroughness with which case files are compiled.

Mr Salmon said: "The report states a PSD plan to improve the clarity of their communication with the public.

"They also pledge that most complaints will be recorded within 10 days.

"The quality of the thoroughness of files provided by PSD is commended.

"A number of files were highlighted for their comprehensive communication and detail.

"They were informative and explained actions taken by the force."

Superintendent Huw Meredith, head of Dyfed-Powys PSD, noted the findings.

Bethan wows contest judges

A SCHOOLGIRL from Welshpool has been named regional winner in a national cycling safety competition after wowing judges with her design for a bike helmet.

Bethan Evans impressed judges in the competition, launched by national charity the Bicycle Helmet Initiative Trust. Six-year-old Bethan attends Dyffyn Banw School in Llangadfan.

School pupils put on festive jumpers to help raise cash

by Graham Breeze

THE Chronicle's "Keeping Oswestry Alive" campaign received a double boost this week from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and a local primary school.

The BHF approved part-funding for our first three defibrillators while pupils at Meadows Primary School handed over £505.

In association with the British Heart Foundation and the West Midland Ambulance Service, The Chronicle has been appealing for help from readers and advertisers to set up a network of life-saving defibrillators located in strategic areas across the town.

Now the first three defibrillators, aimed at providing rapid treatment for those suffering cardiac arrests, are set to be positioned thanks to the funding.

Pupils at Meadows School raised £200 for the appeal by wearing their "Christmas jumpers" for a day at school while Year Six pupil Ethan Lee-Birch contributed another £305 by completing a sponsored swim at Oswestry Leisure Centre.

The school's contribution takes our fundraising efforts to over £4,000 thanks to contributions from Veolia employees, The Wynnstay Hotel, Oswestry Town Council, Principality Building Society, Midland News Association, Morris Cook Accountants, Oswestry Senior Citizen's Club and David Davies Undertakers.

Birthday

Chronicle staff have also been out raising funds, running a half marathon and bag packing at Morrisons as well as taking part in a sponsored alcohol-free January.

Chronicle associate editor Graham, said: "Treatment within the first few minutes is so vital for cardiac arrest sufferers and we aim to make the people of Oswestry aware of where every defibrillator can be found and help ensure training is provided for users.

"The people of Oswestry have taken The Chronicle to their hearts and with the support of our readers and advertisers we intend to mark our third birthday by erecting the first three defibrillators."

These are due to be at The Wynnstay, Powis Market Hall and at Oswestry Senior Citizens Club, Lorne Street.

Another two defibrillators are due to be placed at The Chronicle and Shropshire Star offices in Salop Road and at Principality Building Society in Leg Street.

Donations can be made at The Principality Building Society (account: 144649-05) or at The Chronicle.



Town's keeping alive scheme wins backing

AMBULANCE service and Heart Foundation officers along with local companies heaped praise on the "Keeping Oswestry Alive" campaign this week.

Warren Appleby, Shropshire's Fundraising Volunteer Manager for the BHF, backed the appeal. "This is a very positive scheme and the British Heart Foundation is pleased to be associated with The Chronicle and the West Midland Ambulance Service," he said.

Community Paramedic Officer for Shropshire Terry Foster, of West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "Bystander CPR is incredibly important because having people on hand who know what to do is crucial.

"Specialist training in basic life support skills can and really does save lives."

"We are pleased to be associated with this campaign," said Wynnstay Hotel manager Sebastian Siddi.

"There is a real need for defibrillators in Oswestry and we have already got staff qualified to use the equipment."

"It is a great idea to supply a much needed service for the town and Morris Cook Accountants are delighted to be able to support the scheme," said Andrew Clark.

"We are delighted to be able to contribute towards the cost and offer to house a defibrillator in our town centre offices. The more machines there are the better for us all," said Kate Woodhead of The Principality.



Pupils at Meadow School with staff from the Oswestry Chronicle, Graham Breeze, associate editor, Daniel Carlyle, Harry Rogers, Lauren Humphreys, Ethan Lee-Birch and David Lee-Birch, advertisement manager. Picture: Mark Booth.

Screenwriter hails library

OSWESTRY has the best library in Britain, according to one of the country's top screenwriters.

Frank Cottrell Boyce, the writer of the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony, will visit the Oswestry Literary Festival tomorrow (Friday).

He agreed to be the patron of the festival because of his first visit to the town in 2008 when he reopened Oswestry's refurbished and extended library.

"I fell in love with the library and the town - it's hard not to," Mr Cottrell Boyce said.

"The library is simply the best in Britain especially the children's section and that castle that surrounds it.

"To have the vision to create a library

like this for Oswestry for the future is such and act of faith. The library has become a real hub of the community."

He said that the Oswestry Literary Festival was great for the town.

"It brings some wonderful authors to Oswestry and also brings visitors to the town who, like me, might never have visited the place and now ranks it as one of my favourite towns in Britain."

"Festivals like these are great for authors. It is a very solitary profession and it gives us the chance to step out of our bubble and meet members of the public and find out what they think of our work."

Friday night's launch of the Oswestry Lit Fest is sold out but there are tickets for most events during the festival in March.

NEWS in brief

Foreign visitors welcomed at club

TWO visitors from New Zealand, Anna Solomon and Tim Rogers, were welcomed to Welshpool Rotary Club's latest meeting by president Olwen John.

The speaker was Rotarian Mike Wynne-Griffith, who spoke about his experiences as a boy scout at the 1951 Jamboree in Australia.

The vote of thanks was given by Richard White.

The Tree of Light situated at Tesco's over Christmas raised £63, and the tree in the Market Hall raised £248.

A collection at Tesco raised £300.

Take a trip to see town snowdrops

TWO hours of winter walking therapy with some of the best views of snowdrops in Oswestry is being hosted by Shropshire Tourism next month.

The free Snowdrop Walk will start from Oswestry Railway Station on February 18 at 11am and follow a route across fields, stiles, over a stream and with some uphill sections.

Appropriate footwear should be worn and places can be booked through Mile End Visitor Centre on (01691) 662488.

History society to host meeting

RUXTON XI Towns Local History Society will hold its next meeting on February 5 at 7.30pm in The Victoria Room, Ruxton XI Towns.

Alan Smith will give a talk on drink and temperance in 19th century Shrewsbury.

All are welcome. Admission for non-members is £2.50.

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NEWS**Firm building for the future**

WORK has started on a development of 18 affordable new homes.

The ceremonial laying of the first brick at Park Hall, Whittington, was carried out by Shropshire Councillor Keith Barrow.

Once completed, the Meres & Mosses Housing Association site will offer two bungalows, nine two-bedroom houses and seven three-bedroom homes.

Four of the homes will be made available for shared ownership, giving young families a hand on to the housing ladder by splitting the investment in a home with Shropshire Housing Group. Building work is being carried

out by Oswestry-based JR Pickstock Ltd and is due to be completed by July.

Andy Jones, managing director of JR Pickstock Ltd, said: "We are delighted to be working in collaboration with Shropshire Housing Group to bring quality homes at affordable prices to the area."

Chief executive of Shropshire Housing Group, Jake Berriman, said: "We're really happy to have the Park Hall development under way."

"It's one of a number of sites we are currently actively developing and it will provide high quality but still affordable homes in the Whittington area."



Councillor Keith Barrow on site with Shropshire Housing Group chief executive, Jake Berriman, left, and councillor Steve Charnley of Shropshire Council.

Foundry worker and former club doorman dies aged 44

by Sue Austin

THE family of a 44-year-old man who died suddenly has described him as the epitome of a good friend.

Steve Clark, from Trefonen, worked for Castle Fine Arts Foundry at Llanrhaeadr, helping to create bronze sculptures that have pride of place in sites across Britain.

He was also well known in his younger days as a doorman at clubs and pubs in Shrewsbury.

Mr Clark fell ill with acute pancreatitis on January 3. He was taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital but never recovered and died, with his family at his bedside, on January 9.

He leaves a wife, Mandy, son, Aaron, step-

daughters, Amy and Zoe and a grandson, Daniel.

His younger brother, Nick, said Mr Clark had been the longest serving employee at the foundry.

"He loved his work, it brought out the creative side of him," he said.

Friend

"He had also been a doorman in Shrewsbury for about 18 or 19 years and knew so many people."

"When Steve made a friend, it was a lifelong friend. He was the epitome of all that a good friend and family person should be."

"Steve told us he had had the best Christmas ever, he loved being with his family."

Mr Clark's hobbies included Kung Fu and

fishing. "He was teaching Aaron, whom he idolised, everything he knew about fishing."

"He would spend long hours fishing along the canal or carp fishing at Ellesmere," his brother said.

Mr Clark's family said they wanted to thank all the staff in the intensive care unit at the hospital where he spent his final days.

"The staff there were tremendous, they could not have done any more for Steve or ourselves," said Nick.

Marcus Marmaras speaking on behalf of colleagues at Castle Fine Arts said: "Steve was a big man with an even bigger heart."

"He will be greatly missed by us all."

Mr Clark's funeral was held on Tuesday at Trefonen Church.



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NEWS

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Motoring ban for woman who hit two pedestrians

A 29-year-old woman who drove into two women, one of whom was 39 weeks pregnant, has been banned from the road.

Clare Marie Janicki, of Hawthorn Grove, Oswestry, was given a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, banned from driving for 20 months after one of her victims claimed she had been left a prisoner in her own home by the injuries she suffered.

by Pam Kingsley

She was also ordered to do 150 hours of unpaid work, placed on a 12-month supervision order and told to take a drink drivers' awareness programme, pay £85 costs and an £80 surcharge.

Janicki was arrested in the early evening of September 29 after she turned from College Road into Llys Road, Oswestry and ran into Gillian Varley and her pregnant niece, Kayleigh Varley.

In a statement read out at Shrewsbury Magistrates Court Gillian - who took most of the impact and suffered a shattered shoulder, a broken rib and arm, cracked pelvis and cuts to her head - said: "Since the day I was knocked over my life has changed considerably. I feel like I am being punished because I am stuck in my home like a prisoner, when I was actually the innocent victim."

"I have severe pain in my left arm and chronic back pain. I've had to have metal plates inserted in my arm

which will be in my body for the rest of my life. I have a scar now on my arm which is a constant reminder of what happened on that Sunday. I have post traumatic stress and am losing clumps of my hair; I'm taking sleeping tablets, antidepressants and painkillers; I have nightmares."

Kayleigh suffered minor injuries and gave birth to a healthy baby on October 17. Janicki, who cried during the hearing had previously admitted drink driving, failing to stop and driving without due care and attention.

A breath test showed she had 78 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath - more than double the limit.

Miss Ceri Lewis, for Janicki, said her client was "extremely remorseful".

"She said she doesn't normally drink to that extent but the previous day she had learned that her partner of eight years had been having a relationship with one of her friends," Miss Lewis said.

Sculptures go on show in town



Sculptor Jas Davidson with his human figure sculptures that are going on display at the Willow Gallery. Picture: Ian Sheppard.

SCULPTURES that feature London's Art Erotica show will go on display in Oswestry this weekend.

Jas Davidson's sculptures of young men, together with sculptures by Tony Meadows, are part of the Rights of Spring exhibition that will open at the Willow Gallery. It will run until March in the Dunbabin art space in the gallery.

Both artists are members of Borderland Visual Arts with which they exhibit regularly. Mr Meadows' work has also been exhibited in London, and Mr Davidson has a growing international reputation having exhibited in London, Rome and Amsterdam.

Mr Davidson, from Madog Place in Oswestry, said: "The work may be challenging to some people and we have warned that it is suitable only for grown-ups - a word we have chosen deliberately as many adults are not grown-up."

Mr Davidson's sculptures are part of his Ore series but he said they are nothing like the Orcs of the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

"He is not, as Tolkien described, a dark malevolent creature, but holds an entirely different meaning as expressed in the works of William Blake. Blake's Orc is a positive figure, the embodiment of creative passion and energy, standing opposed to the figure of Urizen, the embodiment of tradition and authority."

More of Mr Davidson's work is making its mark across Oswestry town centre in the form of unusual shop and pub signs. The sculptures sit on top of pubs and take-aways in Albion Hill.

Providing a selection of stunning, carefully selected designs

TMS Events has been in business for over 7 years providing venue decor and floral design for weddings across Mid-Wales, Shropshire and Cheshire.

In late 2013 the company expanded into retail premises in order to provide a wider range of wedding decor to hire and floral design options and since opening in October they now sell a range of designer brand new, ex-sample or pre-loved bridal gowns and accessories.

Tammy Weaver owner of TMS Events said "the expansion came because I could really see a gap as far as wedding gowns, so many brides turn to sellers from overseas and become scalded. Our boutique provides a selection of stunning, carefully selected designs that people can try on and both see and feel the quality for themselves, without the hefty price tag or risk that they don't know what they may receive!"

The shop acts as a showroom for all of our venue decor and floral design work and has a really inviting layout.

TMS Events will host the Powys Wedding Fayre on Saturday 8th February to showcase their products alongside the regions premier suppliers and venues!

Tammy said "so many of my Powys based clients travel across the borders to find there venue and suppliers that I really wanted to showcase the Powys suppliers or those that cover the area often".

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FEATURES AND COMMENT

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

REMEMBER the days when landing a job with your local council meant you were set for life.

I well recall my mother telling me the council would have been a better bet than journalism and to think about the pension package.

Well she was right back then but she wouldn't be now.

It's a worrying time to be a council employee as all across the country enforced cuts mean every single job is under scrutiny and hundreds will go across Shropshire and Powys over the next 12 months.

There's no doubt that some councils have brought the problems on themselves and will find it difficult to defend employee numbers and hard pressed to match the productivity levels of most in the private sector.

But haven't we all had to face up to the reality that none of us is indispensable – I know I did, seeing my job and pension torn away to become a redundancy statistic as the economy and failing newspaper industry took hold.

Today's position is that very few of us can expect to be employed by the same company or organisation throughout our working life cycles and that means that our long-term financial futures are unclear.

Youngsters don't have the resources to pay into lucrative pension schemes – if such things still exist.

They are more concerned about paying rents and mortgages and putting food on the table than saving for that rainy day.

Many are being forced to wait longer to draw down their Government pensions, working more years than they had bargained for as well as losing out on funds from company schemes.

Yet only today I read the good news that Government statistics show the country is in recovery as the biggest ever quarterly increase in employment was recorded. Unemployment dropped to 7.1 per cent and a total of 280,000 jobs were created in the period.

For those concerned about bank rates the news means we are close to a change as the Bank of England says the 0.5 per cent rate will only increase when unemployment figures reach seven per cent. Watch this space.

WHAT really wound me up this week were the long delays facing motorists on the Welshpool to Newtown A483 as workmen moved in to carry out resurfacing at the Llandrinio junction.

A journey which normally takes less than 25 minutes took 50 on consecutive days.

And taking an alternative route didn't help much as I came up behind a convoy of three bin lorries, travelling well within the speed limit.

Lesson to self – Be patient.



Ian Thomlinson of Hartshorn Butchers in Oswestry.



Mo Battam from Battams Butchers also in Beatrice Street.

Butchers chew over year since horsemeat scandal

It is a year since the shock of the horsemeat scandal Graham Breeze investigates if people's buying habits have changed

BUTCHERS in Oswestry say more people are interested in where their meat comes from following last year's horsemeat scare.

However some customers have returned to supermarkets, just a year after the news that some of the stores' meat products were not all they were said to be.

Ian Tomlinson, 35, from Hartshorn Butchers in Beatrice Street in Oswestry, said he had been a butcher since the age of 19.

The shop sources its meat from local farmers and so know exactly where its joints and other products come from.

Annoyed

"We make all our own sausages and even our own black puddings so customers know that it is local meat that is going into those."

Hartshorn also cures its own bacon as well as buying other bacon in and produces a range of pies.

"When the horsemeat scandal first broke we noticed a huge rise in customers."

"They were all very keen to buy local meat and meat products."

"But over the year I think that people have drifted back to the supermarkets."

"What made me annoyed about the



Battams the Butchers Steak and Ale pie.

scandal was that people weren't getting what they were told they were getting."

"When something says that it is beef then it should be beef."

Kevin Battams from Battams Butchers also in Beatrice Street, said he had seen many new customers at the shop in the past 12 months.

"People are returning more and more to traditional butchers," he said.

"We know where all our meat is from and we butcher it on the premises."

"We also make all our own pies from scratch on the premises – cooking the meat and making the pastry. We are now employing six members of staff to keep up with the demand."

Mr Battams said the shop had

moved with the times to compete with the supermarkets.

"In the summer we produce a range of meat for the barbecue and customers also like the meat that we produce for quick and easy stir fries."

"We have just teamed up with the local, Offa's Dyke brewery to make our very first Steak and Ale pie which has already proved a huge hit with customers."

"We get to know our customers and it is always good to see a new face."

• The discovery of horsemeat in processed beef products sold by a number of UK supermarket chains resulted in a series of product recalls and put the spotlight on the food industry's supply chain.

It inspired a stricter food testing

Mo Battam outside the shop.

regime across Europe. Irish food inspectors announced in mid-January last year that they had found horsemeat in frozen beefburgers made by firms in the Irish Republic and the UK, and sold by a number of UK supermarket chains, including Tesco, Iceland, Aldi and Lidl.

Then a number of stores and companies across Europe, including Findus and Nestle, recalled beef ready meals, after tests found they contained horse DNA.

Mislabelled processed meat products were discovered in the UK, the Republic of Ireland, France, Norway, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden and Germany.

CHART TOPPERS RAY SPILLER

Over 50 years ago the charts started and this column will look back at them this week, eight, 18, 28, 38 and 48 years ago

EIGHT YEARS AGO...2006

X Factor winners are almost guaranteed the number one slot at the end of the year, when the show reaches its finale. And Shayne Ward claimed the top spot for the last week of 2005 and running into January

2006. His single, That's My Goal, had the peak place for four weeks and sold 313,000 copies on its first day, making it the third fastest selling single of all time. Shayne, who hails from Manchester, had three other top 10 singles.

EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO...1996

For six weeks in 1995, Michael Jackson held the top spot and the all-important Christmas Day number one with Earth Song. This was Michael's sixth number one as a solo singer and he had a total of 38 records inside the top 10 between 1972 and 2004. In 1991, Michael became the first US act to enter the chart at number one since Elvis Presley in 1960. His 1983 album Thriller has sold about 47 million copies.

TWENTY EIGHT YEARS AGO...1986

No duo has amassed more chart entries than the Pet Shop Boys. In 1986 they had the first of their four number one hits with

West End Girls. The single also reached the top of the US charts – their only number one hit in America. Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe only managed one further top

10 single in 1986. In 1987 four singles reached the top 10 – two went to number one, It's A Sin and Always On My Mind.

THIRTY EIGHT YEARS AGO...1976

Ask the public to vote for the best single of all time and it's a safe bet that Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody will be in the top three. In November 1975, this record hit the peak place in the charts and held it for nine weeks. In 1991, when Freddie Mercury passed away, the record was re-released and shot to number one.

FORTY EIGHT YEARS AGO...1966

The Beatles realised the importance of being the number one record at Christmas and they issued a double A single in 1965

with We Can Work It Out/Day Tripper making it their ninth number one single – this time for five weeks. They went on to gain a further eight singles at number one.

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LETTERS

Sad that Requiem not being presented

I WAS delighted to read 2014, being the centenary of the start of World War One, would herald events commemorating the life and work of Oswestry poet Wilfred Owen.

As we well know, he was tragically killed in the trenches as a young man, at the very end of that terrible conflict, possibly on the very last day.

His anti-war poetry has been like a prophetic voice during the war-torn 20th century.

I was more than a little disappointed that no attempt seems to have been made to present a performance of Britten's *War Requiem* in this area.

It is centred around Owen's poetry born out of his experiences.

Written for the opening of the new Coventry Cathedral, next to its beautiful predecessor which was destroyed in a bombing raid in World War Two, Britten's *War Requiem* has proved itself to be one of the most significant pieces of music written in the last 100 years. What an amazing canvas for the genius of Owen.

I know that to organise a performance of the *War Requiem* would have been an enormous project.

But planning has been proceeding for this landmark for years, and those involved must have been aware of the work's significance to this area.

I feel that I must quote one of Owen's most famous lines. The ones which conclude the *War Requiem* - "Let us sleep now".

Rev BOB PITCHER
Hengoed

Addictions are the same

THE media tends only to portray the positives about immigration and the benefits gained by those better off, such as business.

But dig a little deeper and there is a growing number of homeless immigrants who are addicted to drugs and alcohol, for these people they are in a revolving door in and out of prison. They are no different from British born people with addictions they have to steal to fund their habit.

Free movement of crime is another problem.

MARK NORWOOD
WHITTINGTON

Accepting fracking cash is wrong

An open letter to Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones:

I understand that the Welsh Government is under great pressure to declare its hand on fracking, and therefore I am writing to you to explain why accepting David Cameron's 30 pieces of silver would be the wrong decision.

The fact that Cameron has resorted to bribery shows just how desperately he wants fracking to go ahead, and how unpalatable the very idea of fracking is to our communities.

One look at an aerial view of fracking sites in Texas tells all. Now Texas

faces a water shortage.

Fracking "pads" multiply faster than rabbits in a warm summer. This is the economic wonder of fracking.

I haven't noticed any community fracking schemes - what community would really want such a thing? And I haven't noticed any similar bribes for renewable energy farms.

It's the fracking way or nothing from Cameron.

The benefits are a fiction. The US has a huge internal economy and its

energy prices are determined internally. By contrast the UK energy prices are bought and sold on the international market and the pricing is way out of our control.

There will be no savings for energy users and the bulk of the profits will go to Total, a huge French multinational with shareholders to satisfy, and who may not even declare profits here in the UK.

One per cent of nothing is nothing.

PIPPA BARTOLOTTI
Arweynydd Plaid Werdd Cymru

Campaign wanting all homes connected

CAMPAIGNERS wanting superfast broadband extended to all rural homes and businesses have put a proposal to Shropshire Council and all town and parish councils, suggesting they work to ensure that as close to 100 per cent of premises as possible are connected.

The reason behind the idea is existing and future sources of Government funding are unlikely to bring high-speed broadband to all premises.

Last year the campaign group raised over 1,000 signatures on an electronic petition calling for the existing plans to be revised in favour of homes and businesses with poor or low broadband speeds. As a result it has been promised a five-minute presentation at the full council meeting at Shirehall, on February 27.

Despite reservations this would be an additional burden on rural taxpayers, at least it could bring solutions where none currently exist.

PATRICK COSGROVE
Shropshire and
Marches Campaign
for Better Broadband
in Rural Areas

Politicians in UK really are useless

IT was politicians who invented the Common Market to promote our entry into the European Union.

It was politicians, of all three persuasions, who signed the six treaties which have ruined our country.

And it was politicians who agreed and signed the myriad of clearly anti-British regulations which have systematically dismantled Britain, its sovereignty, its governance, its once-powerful democracy, its 1,000-year old judicial system, health service and national borders.

Like our Parliament, our politicians never had any authority in Europe and have relinquished any they once had here. To put it plainly, they are useless.

It is current Government policy to severely regulate what "useless" can claim from national funds to £300 per week per household - a tidy saving when multiplied by 646 MPs.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Youngsters have a spring in their step



IN the depths of winter, here's a taste of spring. It shows maypole dancing at Trefonen C of E School in the school playground on April 30, 1968.

Plea to join maRAFon fundraiser

AS we all struggle to maintain our new year's resolutions to get fit, I thought I'd share news of a fantastic event being organised for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

The 'maRAFon' will see elderly, injured and disabled RAF veterans and their families, friends and supporters, including myself, running, walking or rolling their own distance, to be collected into a single grand total over the Easter April 18-21).

You can do it wherever you like, however you like - in groups, or individually, on a treadmill, on the way to work, or in the park.

It's a great way for young and old, disabled and able-bodied, fit and unfit to have fun while raising money.

Sign up at
www.rafbf.org/maRAFon
SIR TERRY WOGAN

LETTERS to the Editor

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Planting cedar tree is good for the soul

CAN you imagine what a desolate landscape it would be without trees?

It's such a joy to travel along our borderland and see some of the wonderful trees in the parkland of estates which were planted by the gentry perhaps 150 years ago. Great, towering, stately pines and cedars.

I love to plant trees, this is the time of year and I've just planted a Cedar of Lebanon. There's something satisfying about knowing they could be there for future generations to enjoy. Mind you, the one I've planted may be only half grown when my youngest grandchild is as old as me.

I won't be here to enjoy it but, hang on, "those who are gentle and lowly will inherit the earth", Jesus promised it.

So I will see it and the earth will be at peace.

RON JONES
Oswestry

Vicious circle of deprivation is continuing

DAVID Cameron couldn't have timed it better to show the Benefit Street programme, if he himself had been charge of programming. It will no doubt foster the belief that the welfare state is the cause of all our ills and needs amputating.

Yes I saw the benefits being drawn and beer, tattoos, mobile phones and big TVs, but also people trying to help others.

Nobody is born a scrounger, most of it is down to where you were born.

I saw the children and wondered what their future will be if no one can find a way to break the vicious circle of deprivation. Society creates the situation and, only when it changes, will things improve.

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HUSBAND HAS LEFT ME WITH THE KIDS, DEBTS AND NO MONEY - WHAT CAN I DO?

Q. I recently found out that my husband has been cheating on me for the past two years. When I confronted him, he admitted to it. That was just before Christmas and in early January he informed me that he couldn't live without this other woman and he just walked out on me and our children to go and live with her. I don't want him back but I don't have a job so I need him to support us financially. I managed to contact him at work but he is refusing to pay the mortgage and has left me with a mountain of credit card debts that I cannot repay. What can I do?

A. The first thing you should do is consult a Solicitor. If you really do not want him back it would make sound sense for you to instigate divorce proceedings as soon as possible. At the same time, alongside the divorce proceedings, you can make an Application to the Court for a Financial Order.

Within the Application for a Financial Order, you would be able to ask the Court to grant you what is referred to as a "Maintenance Pending Suit". The purpose of this would be to try and ensure that your husband is forced to pay you Spousal Maintenance during the course of the divorce proceedings. If you were awarded Spousal Maintenance you could then use that money to pay the mortgage instalments and make payments towards your credit card debt.

Within the financial proceedings, consideration will also be given as to what should happen to any capital, income and pensions that are either jointly owned or owned by either one of you. Consideration will also be given as to what level of Child Maintenance your husband should be paying.

Further information relating to this question is available from Alison Monaghan, a Senior Solicitor with GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk.

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NEWS

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Inspiring teachers can win an award

PEOPLE in mid Wales are being invited to nominate exceptional and inspiring teachers for an award.

The Pearson Teaching Awards are an annual celebration of teachers and teaching, and recognise the life-changing impact of an inspirational teacher on the lives of those they teach.

Welsh education and skills minister Huw Lewis, said: "We've been fortunate in recent years to have had some outstanding winners in the Pearson Teaching Awards."

"We all know teachers who have had a significant impact on the young people they educate, inspiring and encouraging them to succeed."

"If there's a teacher or teaching team you think deserve recognition for their work I urge you to put them forward for an award."

The deadline for nominations is February 28. Visit www.teachingawards.co.uk/enter_now

Talk by chaplain

THE next meeting of the Oswestry Group of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship is on Tuesday, February 4 at the Wynnstay Hotel, at 10.30am when the speaker will be Father McKenna, Chaplain of Stoke Heath Young Offenders Institute.

Ban on spending cash from car parking fees 'disastrous'

A BAN on using parking charges to subsidise local government spending would be disastrous for Oswestry, the town council has warned.

The council runs three of the town centre's main car parks which bring in well over £300,000 a year from charges.

That money is, councillors say, ploughed back into the town to help attract more visitors. But there are fears that a Government rethink on national parking policy could wipe out the income which could spell disaster for the council's budget.

The council has raised its fears with north Shropshire MP Owen Paterson.

by Sue Austin

Health access must get better

ACCESS to rural health services must be improved a mid Wales Assembly Member has claimed.

Russell George, believes that access to some key health services in rural areas are still a real cause for concern.

The AM took the opportunity during the National Assembly's first sitting of 2014, to question Welsh Ministers about the provision of out of hours mental health services, as well as the problems of attracting and recruiting GPs to rural surgeries.

Mr George brought these issues to the attention of both the First Minister and the Health Minister, after they became frequent agenda items during meetings with the Montgomeryshire GP cluster group.

Mr George said: "GPs are telling me that they are seeing shocking incidents of out of hours mental health care because the admissions and referral system has simply broken, this is just unacceptable."

Amendments are being discussed in Parliament for the local authority parking policy. They include how to limit the use of CCTV for on-street parking enforcement, whether local authorities should allow a "grace period" where a driver has over-stayed in a parking place and the possibility of a ruling that parking charges and fines should not be used to subsidise other areas of local government spending.

Town clerk David Preston said it was the latter possibility that worried Oswestry town councillors.

Unusual

"As a town council we are very unusual as we raise 75 per cent of our income by trading, that is through our markets and our car parks."

Town mayor Councillor Chris Schofield said: "This money is used to offset the services we provide which includes ploughing money into the town centre and attracting visitors. Initiatives include floral decorations, Christmas lights and various events."

"Without this money the town council would have to pass on the costs to the tax payer or drastically cut its services."

Oswestry Town Council runs the Central, Horsemarket and Smithfield car parks. Over the past year the number of motorists visiting the car parks has increased.

Over the coming 12 months the main Central car park is expected to bring in £312,872 for the council.

Limbering up for charity run



Lynsey Kilvert, from Hope House, is running in aid of the charity. Picture: Peter Shah.

A FUNDRAISER is calling for others to join her in a charity run next month to raise money for the county's children's hospice.

Lynsey Kilvert works in the appeals office at Hope House Children's Hospice at Morda and is more used to encouraging others to take on fundraising activities.

But she will be taking up the gauntlet herself next month when she takes on the Apley Estates multi-terrain run on February 16.

The 35-year-old, from Oswestry, said: "It all started with a new year resolution to get myself fit and to raise funds for Hope House at the same time."

"I have 10 people in the team now but would like to hear from anyone else."

"All I am asking people to do is to pay the relevant registration fee - £7 for the 5k, £12 for the 10k and £17 for the 21k - and put Hope House as their team/club."

"Send me an e-mail once you are registered, I will provide T-shirt transfers, sponsor forms and a link to a team Just Giving Page."

Week of events is added to calendar

ONE OF Welshpool's annual events is to be dropped off the official Town Council calendar, and replaced with a week of events.

The council says that the "Be a Local Tourist Week" has run its course with last year's dwindling numbers and support underlining their opinion.

But it will be replaced by a week-long festival of events, taking off with the Bob Jones Memorial Airshow on June 8.

"The Be a Local Tourist Week has run for some five years now and has been the same each year," said Town Clerk, Robert Robinson. "The numbers supporting it have been low and mixed so it was felt that something fresh and new should be introduced."

"The tourist attractions we met with favoured a Welshpool Festival Week with bigger events in that period run by various attractions. For example the Air Show would start the week, Powis Castle would end the week and in between there would be other events including a cheaper rate on the Welshpool to Llanfair Railway."

The Be a Local Tourist Week was a series of events and guided walks that encouraged people in Welshpool and the surrounding area to learn more about the town's history.

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NEWS

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Park gets a music licence upgrade

OSWESTRY'S Cae Glas Park will be able to host a wider range of musical entertainment this year after upgrading its music licence.

Plans are now being drawn up for a series of events after Oswestry Town Council was granted an amplified music licence after it learned that the park had hosted three events in 2013 without the correct licence.

Although there were no complaints over the issue, the council was advised by Shropshire Council's public protection team that it was in breach of its licence and should upgrade it to include amplified music.

David Clough, events manager for Oswestry Town Council, said that now the correct licence had been obtained a programme of music is being drawn up.

"We've now got the licence so that means any event that people put on in the park will be able to play music – not just council-run events," he said.

Plea after blaze

POLICE are on the trail of vandals who set fire to the toilets in Berriew Street Car Park in Welshpool on January 14 around 8.30pm. Firefighters were able to stop the blaze from getting out of control but it has cost the town council £500. Call 101.

Axing up to 300 jobs could save millions from budget

UP TO 300 job losses at Powys County Council will save almost £6.5 million of the £20 million budget cuts the authority has to find, officials have said.

The council has revealed its list of proposals to balance its books for 2014/2015. Leisure centres, bus routes day centres and meals on wheels services could all be axed by the cuts.

A survey which went out to public consultation last week said to meet the shortfall the council wants to increase charges, introduce new fees and reduce some of its services.

by Sue Austin

Schools fearing impact of cuts

SCHOOLS in Powys say they fear proposed county council cuts will have a huge impact. The council has revealed it plans to transfer costs to schools in 2014/15 as part of its bid to find £20 million of savings.

These would range from £1.1 million savings by transferring responsibility to schools for insurance and severance pay to removing financial support for theatre tours, ICT and supply cover.

Head of the 69-pupil Churchstoke Primary School Ian Roberts said schools had already had a cut in their budget from the Welsh Assembly settlement of between four and five per cent.

He said: "Now we discover that to balance its books, Powys County Council intends to put the costs onto the schools. The council may say it is making savings but in fact they will be cuts."

"It is very likely to mean the music provision will be lost and that we may not be able to invite theatre groups into school."

In a list of potential changes the council says reducing staff, including the removal of layers of management, would save £6,488,829.

A review of public transport, which the council says could lead to the reduction in the number of bus routes, could save £2 million. Another large money-saver would be making waste collection more efficient, saving £500,000.

t12 crosshead

A number of savings would be made in the education sector by transferring the responsibility of funding to schools. This would include insurance and severance pay, saving £1.1 million, supply cover, ICT maintenance, transport for swimming lessons, theatre tours in schools, the music development fund, and school councils.

There will also be a review of school meals, while post 16 students would be charged on school buses.

Leisure savings planned include £1 million savings on a review of sports and leisure centres, with the possible closure of some and transfer of some facilities to community groups and schools.

Day centres could close with services provided at other council or community facilities and residents accessing day care would see a rise in charges.

Car parking charges are also likely to rise.



Nikki Whitehouse, Paige Whitehouse and Nick Davies take a look at the proposals in Welshpool Town Hall. Pictures Mark Booth.



Alan Crowe, from Welshpool, fills in the questionnaire.

Island to go after motorists flout law

A MINI-roundabout at Chirk will be removed – following complaints that motorists have never used it correctly.

Work to get rid of the roundabout on the B4500 Castle Road in Chirk began this week and is expected to last about six weeks.

Councillors in Chirk have consistently complained that drivers have been flouting road rules at the roundabout. It was installed several years ago but some motorists have been accused of ignoring it completely or even driving the wrong way around it.

North Wales Police has worked with Wrexham Council highways bosses to try to address the issue and the council has now confirmed it will be removed.

Officers gave out warning letters at the beginning of last year to more than 50 drivers who were spotted misusing the roundabout.

But councillors say the problem has remained and have welcomed the removal of the roundabout all together.

Councillors said some drivers drove straight over it or on the wrong side so they could access the opposite junction but were worried on-coming motorists were not able to see vehicles bypassing the roundabout.

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Transport problems in survey spotlight

WELSHPOOL'S transport woes are the subject of a survey being carried out by Montgomeryshire's Assembly Member in a bid to improve traffic and rail issues for residents.

Russell George AM is carrying out the survey to find views on what the fundamental transport challenges are in the Welshpool area.

Among the questions in the online poll are views on the current one-way system in the town and on the possibility of an hourly train on the Cambrian line.

Mr George said: "I know from the concerns that have been raised with me that there are varying views on the current one-way system in the town. Powys Council said months ago that it would work with the Welsh Government to implement improvement measures but very little has happened.

Local people are fed-up of waiting and want action.

"I am a big believer that local people know what is best for their communities, that's why I feel those commuting and using local transport services probably already have the solutions to many of the town's transport problems, they just need a way of getting those views heard.

"I am encouraging people to fill in a short survey that can be completed online at tinyurl.com/qjwafao"

Adele's poised to realise a major sporting dream

by Graham Breeze

WELSHPOOL athlete Adele Nicoll's goal for this year is simple – qualify for the Commonwealth Games and represent her native Wales in Glasgow. And the Welshpool athlete believes she is well-placed to realise a sporting dream.

The 17-year-old, Walford College student, who represents Birchfield Harriers, competes in the shot putt and discus, with the former being the event in which she reached new heights during 2013 with an appearance at the World Youth Championships in the Ukraine.

An 11th-place finish, coupled with a clean sweep of victories in the shot throughout the entire domestic season, marked a breakthrough that sees her on the cusp of a first major senior championship appearance.

Encouraging

To qualify Nicoll, a 2014 inductee on the SSE Next Generation programme, has to throw 15 metres – the 'B' distance – on two occasions before July.

With encouraging signs in training that her personal best of 14.33m is under serious threat of being broken, she believes everything is going to plan.

"It would definitely be the biggest achievement to date to qualify for Glasgow and the biggest learning curve and experience," said Nicoll, who will receive



Adele Nicoll

funding, mentoring and access to top-quality facilities from Games sponsors SSE after being included on the Next Generation programme.

"To go out there as a 17-year-old Welsh athlete would be amazing and to wear that vest is something I have always wanted to do.

Getting my first GB vest and going to the World Youth Championships was definitely the highlight of last year and I won all of the domestic championships and was undefeated in the shot in my own age group.

"I learned a tremendous amount from the World Youth Championships as it was about me as an individual and you realise how important the relationship you have with your coach is.

"Everything changes at that level as the intensity increases due to the pressure on everyone.

"You have to deal with that and having to qualify for a final as well, which was a new experience."

A three-week trip to Arizona for a training camp in March awaits, but Nicoll insists she wants to have qualification wrapped up well before then.

Town police stay on the move



Pictured: PCSO Gary Gwilt and PC Jim Baines with Sharon Brooks of Brooks Cycles.

POLICE in Welshpool are keeping mobile thanks to a town cycle shop's donation.

Brooks Cycles has donated a bike to the neighbourhood policing team and it is being put into immediate use.

"The donation is extremely generous and we are very grateful to Brooks Cycles," said Inspector Jon Tatton.

"The bicycle will be a key tool in ensuring that we as police are accessible and visible to the public. Welshpool is a highly populated area and the use of the bicycle will allow us to reach all persons and assist us in reduction of our emissions and subsequent impact on the environment.

"I thank Brooks Cycles for helping us in providing an improved service to the community of Welshpool."

A spokesperson for Brooks Cycles said: "At Brooks Cycles we are pleased to be able to support the local Police by providing a (Giant) bicycle. Not only will this allow our local beat officers to respond more quickly when required, but will also help reduce carbon emissions where a patrol car would have been used on local call outs in the past."

Pupils on Canadian trip thanks to Rotary

WELSHPOOL High School pupils have been to Canada as part of an exchange programme organised by the town's Rotary Club.

The club is twinned with the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise, Simcoe, Ontario, and for many years there has been an exchange from the school with their counterparts in Canada.

In October last year eight people from the high school stayed with host families in Canada. They were Steve Hamer, teacher and group leader; Ellie Cordy; Eleanor Thomas; Faye Hudson; Eliot Collins; Heledd Hamer; Huw Morris and Peter Smith. At a club meeting at The Royal Oak Hotel the group spoke about their experiences in Canada, and showed slides. In March a party from Simcoe will visit Welshpool for one week.

Centre is calling for more support

THE Open Door Family Centre in Welshpool is calling on the local community for support.

The family centre, in Howell Drive, runs a nursery and also an after school and holiday club.

Recently the centre has struggled because of the financial climate. Call (01938) 556911.

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End of an era as train driver leaves footplate



Don Higham on the footplate for the last time.

A TRAIN driver has taken to the footplate on Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway for the last time, ending a 47 year association.

Don Higham, now 73, was one of the earliest volunteers to join W&LLR when it was reopened as a heritage line in 1963.

After several years as a locomotive fireman he passed as a driver in May 1987, and has been a stalwart member of the footplate department since.

Don's last run was not allowed to pass without a token of appreciation,

by Graham Breeze

and after the train pulled in he was collected from the footplate of locomotive no 823 'Countess' by department head Simon Bowden and steered to the staff mess, where colleagues waited with a cake to mark the occasion.

General manager Terry Turner described how Don had been a great asset to the railway.

"Don is not one for galas or special events, but he is always here midweek, when people are needed," Terry said.

"He is very unassuming - he comes

here and does whatever's needed. We hope he keeps coming back to his railway."

Don has always been a strong advocate of interesting young people in the railway, for many years bringing scout troops to work on the line.

Despite no longer taking the regulator and living 70 miles from the line, Don promises he won't be giving up the W&LLR.

"I wouldn't keep coming all this time if I didn't like the railway, and the company here. As soon as you get home you start thinking about coming back again."

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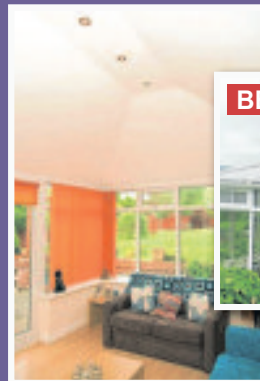


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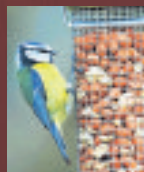
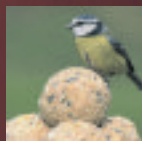
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NEWS

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Fuel cost saving is made by clothing

PEOPLE are being urged to "Get It On" in 2014 by putting on an extra layer of clothing and turning their heating down to save energy.

The "Get It On" initiative is part of the Welsh Government's Way To Go campaign which encourages everyone to think about changes they can make to help save energy and money, while tackling climate change.

Sara Jones, spokeswoman for the campaign, said: "If every household in Wales turned down their heating by just one degree, we could save £50 million on our combined energy bill. Research by the Energy Saving Trust also shows that for every degree you turn your heating down, you could save around £60 a year, while installing a room thermostat could save a further £70.

For more information about the Way To Go campaign visit www.facebook.com/waytogowales

Opticians sold

AN Oswestry opticians has been bought out by national high street retailer Vision Express.

The company announced the acquisition of Rayner Opticians shops, bringing its total number of stores in the UK and Ireland to 367.

Campaigners criticise council over handling of hillfort plan

CAMPAIGNERS against plans to build homes around Oswestry's ancient hillfort have criticised county planners for the way they have dealt with the proposals.

Areas of land around the 3,000-year-old landmark have been put forward as potential sites for housing under Shropshire Council's SAMDev, a county-wide blueprint of where houses are to be built in the future.

The move sparked an online petition by the The Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort (HOOOH) group which attracted nearly 8,000 signatures against the plans.

Campaigners say they are worried about the impact almost 200 proposed homes so close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument would have on the hillfort.

The scheme, called the Oldport Masterplan, would see the eastern and south-eastern approaches of the hillfort infilled with housing linking three separate sites.

Kate Clarke, from HOOOH, said: "Shropshire Council planners have rejected housing further away and to the west of Old Oswestry, stating unequivocally that it will have significant detrimental impacts on the hillfort's setting."

"You would expect at least the same assessment for the development at Oldport Farm to the east, which is much closer."

"This shows blatant inconsistency in planning interpretation."

Miss Clarke said the group's concerns were shared with leading historical experts. Shropshire Council's cabinet member for planning, Councillor Malcolm Price, said the authority's proposals were the result of "careful consideration".

He added the protection of the hillfort setting had always been the primary consideration and stressed that no planning applications had yet been submitted.

"I would encourage those interested to look closely at the proposals and to consider them objectively," he said.

Councillor Sue Crowe backed the move at a meeting of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council particularly because of the level of concern about the plans and the level of interest both locally and nationally.

She said: "It has hit the national press so I think we should definitely do something."

Councillors to discuss plans

COUNCILLORS will hold their own meeting with English Heritage over controversial housing proposals around Oswestry's ancient hillfort.

Members of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council will hold the talks to help councillors put together their response to plans to build 188 homes off Gobowen Road and Oldport Farm.

Although the houses, if they go ahead, will be in the parish of Oswestry Town Council, the hillfort itself is in the parish of Selattyn and Gobowen.

Oswestry Town Council has already held its own talks with English Heritage over the issue.

Councillor Sue Crowe backed the move at a meeting of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council particularly because of the level of concern about the plans and the level of interest both locally and nationally.

She said: "It has hit the national press so I think we should definitely do something."

Art project wins charity funds



Catherine Wilks, the social business manager at The Project Group, receives the cheque from Carl Hartey.

A COMMUNITY group has been handed a £1,000 grant to help support an art project aimed at adults with mental health conditions.

The Project Group in Oswestry has been given the cash by the Charlotte Hartey Foundation.

The Project Group makes public art commissions and designs craft products for retail and all of its designers are adults who are in touch with mental health services.

The money will be used to support a project the group is involved with at Oswestry's New Century Court, a housing project which caters for youngsters who need extra support.

Catherine Wilks, social business manager at The Project Group, said: "The donation of £1,000 is contributing to a partnership project with New Century Court in Oswestry."

"We will work together on a 'makeover' of communal and outside spaces."

"In this project we will bring together two marginalised groups to develop new skills and design ideas."

Glamour of prom inspires students

THE glamour of the prom was one of the inspirations for Oswestry hairdressing students competing for a place in a national competition.

Students at Walford and North Shropshire's Oswestry campus took part in the contest with a place at the National Hairdressers Federation finals up for grabs.

The students, completing the first year of the Level 2 hairdressing qualification, were able to choose from two categories - Night at the Prom and Up-Trend.

And they just had half an hour to style their model.

The winner was stylist Charlotte Mounsey. Her model Alicia Dugmore wore a unique hairstyle.

Charlotte said: "I am really pleased I've won and can't wait to go to Blackpool now."

Sharon Cooper, head of hair and beauty, said: "The winners go on to represent the college at the National Hairdressers Federation competition on March 17 at the Blackpool Winter Gardens."

"This kind of event aims to test the students' technical expertise, creativity and ability to work under pressure."

Tracey Brown, of Browns of Ellesmere, was invited to judge the competition.

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NEWS

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Pupils to benefit through funding

SCHOLARSHIPS have been awarded to three talented pupils at one of the county's schools.

Beatrice Quinton, Dominic Kular and Matthew Kinney all attend Ellesmere College and have received scholarships set up by former pupils. The scholarships will run for the two years that the students are in the sixth form.

Beatrice was presented with the Mullock Arts Scholarship by Robyn and David Mullock.

The 16-year-old is a talented musician, who sings and plays several instruments. Her ambition is to study music at Oxbridge.

The Ian Beer Rugby Scholarship was presented to 17-year-old Mathew, a talented rugby player and member of the elite Ellesmere College Rugby Academy.

The scholarship was created to honour the 80th birthday of retired headmaster Ian Beer, who played rugby for Cambridge and England.

The Silver Cross Academic Scholarship – awarded to an outstanding academic student – was presented to Dominic by businessman Alan Halsall.

Nick Pettingale, director of external relations at the college, said: "I don't believe you can overstate the value and power of these scholarships."

Fly tipping warning letter angers burgled shop owner

WHEN Jim McCorquodale's store was broken into he lost jewellery worth £800 and £80 cash.

But days after the burglary there was insult added to injury when Mr McCorquodale discovered that a bag of papers also stolen had been found next to the town's recycling bins – and that he could be prosecuted for fly tipping.

He eventually received a formal warning and was told he could have been fined £50,000 or given a 12-month prison sentence.

by Sue Austin

Musical night at Big School

PORTHYWAEN Silver Band and Ellesmere College Choral Society will be joining together to add sparkle to the winter season at an annual concert.

Ellesmere College's Midwinter Concert is at the college's Big School on February 1 and will include a Beatles medley and the Hallelujah Chorus.

Proceeds will go towards Ellesmere Friends of Hope House and Ellesmere and District Age Concern Day Centre.

Anne Wignall, chairwoman of Age Concern Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and secretary of the Ellesmere Friends of Hope House, said: "I am delighted that we have secured the support of both the Porthywaen Band and the Ellesmere College Choral Society to help raise funds for the charities. I am also grateful to Ellesmere College for its tremendous support."

Tickets cost £5 from Fashelles in Wharf Road in Ellesmere, Fred Roberts in The Square, or Averil on (01691) 622510.

Now, with a Wrexham man jailed for the burglary of Mr McCorquodale's Korky's store in Chirk, as well as that of a nearby hairdressing salon the 59-year-old, from Avondale, Chirk Bank, is calling for an apology from Wrexham County Borough Council.

The shop owner's problems began on March 5 last year when the burglar broke in stealing jewellery, cash and a leather bag. A bin bag of papers was also taken.

Traced

Mr McCorquodale said: "A few days later a man from the council contacted me and said I had to go to the council offices. I wasn't allowed to take my partner in with me."

"They told me that the bag of papers had been found by the recycling site in Chirk and that they had traced them to myself through some of the invoices."

"When they said I might be prosecuted for fly tipping I explained I had had a burglary at the premises and I thought that would be the end of it."

But on March 23 he received a letter saying that, while there would be no further action, he was receiving a formal warning for the offence and that fly tipping carried a maximum penalty of £50,000 or a 12-month prison sentence.

"I now have this formal warning against my name," he said.



Jim McCorquodale from Korky's shop in Chirk who has had an official warning for fly tipping after his shop was burgled. Picture: Peter Shah.

"The burglar was given the opportunity to defend himself but I have no way to appeal."

"What I want now is an apology from Wrexham council and the formal warning removed."

A spokesman for Wrexham County Borough Council said: "Following an investigation, Mr McCorquodale was issued with a formal warning."

"We had made a note of the burglary and no further action has been taken."

Naturalist Iolo gives a talk to villagers

NATURALIST and broadcaster Iolo Williams will give a talk on wildlife in Wales in his home village next month.

As part of the recent award by the Big Lottery Fund a series of talks on Welsh topics is being held in the Old School Hall in Llandyssil, near Montgomery.

Mr Williams will be the guest speaker on February 6 in an event to raise funds for the Old School Hall. Admission is £5 adults and £3 children.

Mr Williams was born in Builth Wells in 1962 and now lives in Llandyssil. Having studied ecology in London, Iolo returned to Mid Wales, initially working on a hill farm, then in forestry, before starting work for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in 1985.

His work investigating crimes against wild birds brought him to the attention of the media and he left the RSPB to work in television and radio. Since then, he has presented wildlife and open air programmes in English and Welsh on BBC and S4C.

Other planned events in the hall include talks on the war poets Edward Thomas on March 11 and Wilfred Owen on April 8.

Contact Brian Turner on (01686) 669887 or visit www.llandysil.com

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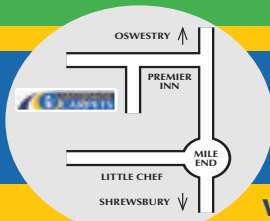
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NEWS

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Mayor in hotseat at college questions

IT WAS question time at Walford and North Shropshire College on Tuesday with the Mayor of Oswestry in the hot-seat.

Councillor Chris Schofield was invited to the Oswestry campus of the college to talk to the politics students. He said it gave him an insight into the young people of the area.

"It was a very interesting question and answer session and I was delighted to go along. After all, it is the young people that we want to attract into politics."

"There is too much apathy in Britain about politics and I was pleased to hear the views of these students."

He said he was worried that many of them felt that young people were a forgotten generation. He said: "I told them to not give up hope and to go out and look for jobs and make careers for themselves."

The mayor said the students were keen to see Oswestry's new cinema opening on the planned retail park by the Smithfield Livestock market.

"They also asked me about my political stance which, although I was happy to tell them I also stressed that we try to keep national politics out of the town council tier of government."

Councillor Schofield also urged the students to ensure they used their votes from the age of 18 onwards.

"I told them that too many people had died for their right to vote for them to throw it away. If anyone wonders why they should vote they should pay a visit to Ypres in Belgium where the Last Post is sounded at the Menin Gate every evening."

Policing concerns are raised online

Pupils stand out



Sean Jones from Wynnstay with Selattyn Primary School pupils Will Cooper, Lily Davies, Sally Davies, Jessica Foulkes, Oliver Cooper, Ethan Lloyd, Emilia Lloyd and James Foulkes.

SELATTYN Primary School has ensured that every pupil is outstanding – by giving them all a high visibility jacket.

The dark winter nights were causing concern that youngsters at Selattyn Primary School, near Oswestry, were at risk from passing traffic.

So Claire Foulkes, one of the parents, approached agriculture supplier and specialist retailer Wynnstay Group about equipping them all with a piece of safety equipment.

Wynnstay was happy to step up to the request and made 90 high visibility jackets available, ensuring that every pupil received one.

Sean Jones, agricultural manager at the Oswestry Wynnstay Store, said: "You can imagine that we don't normally have that kind of quantity of small size high visibility clothing immediately available, so we needed to source the right garment from our suppliers."

"However we were very happy to do so and hope that they will make a difference to keeping the young people safe as they travel to and from school."

by Iain St John

TACKLING drug misuse and fears over street lights being turned off at night were among the subjects raised during the first online public meeting held by police in Shropshire.

Police working in the north Shropshire and Oswestry areas discussed a number of issues of concern with members of the public during a webchat on West Mercia's Police's website.

It was the first time a Partners and Communities Together (Pact) meeting had been held online in the county.

Inspector Rik Klair, who is responsible for policing in north Shropshire, along with Sergeants Scott Barnes and Claire Greenaway took part in the inaugural online two-hour session.

Pact talks in Oswestry are normally held during the regular meetings of the area's local joint committees.

Reports

The first question of the evening came from a contributor called Dave who asked what the police were doing about drugs in Market Drayton.

Sgt Greenaway said officers were working on a number of reports at this time and have conducted warrants in the town in the last couple of months.

She said: "This is a priority area for me and my team and I can reassure you that the situation is at the very top of my agenda."

"The more information I receive, the more action I can take. I encourage all to call in and have the confidence that the team will respond."

A contributor called Rich asked the officers if they had any concerns about plans to turn street lighting off in Oswestry late at night to save money and energy.

He asked: "Will this not make burglary easier during prolonged periods of darkness and therefore increase crime?"

Sgt Barnes replied: "It is a decision being made by Shropshire Council to save money."

Driving ban extended by court after man's breach

AN Oswestry man who used his car to collect his children from school despite being banned from driving until 2016 has had his ban extended and been handed a community order by magistrates.

Mariusz Daszkowski, from Maple Avenue, was seen driving by police near his home on December 18.

Mrs Abigail Hall, prosecuting, said when a police man saw Daszkowski he knew he had been disqualified from driving. When Daszkowski, 44, saw police he pulled into a driveway.

Mr James Cameron, for Daszkowski, said: "He had received a call to say that his daughter had a temperature and, as it was raining, he decided to take the car to collect her from school. He realises he made a big mistake and he's let his family down."

Daszkowski was given a community order for 12 months and told to complete 150 hours of unpaid work.

His driving ban was extended by six months, meaning it now has a further 34 months to run.

There was no separate penalty for the no insurance charge. His licence was endorsed for both offences.

He was ordered to pay costs of £85 and a surcharge of £65.

Property is broken into

BURGLARS made off with money and caused hundreds of pounds of damage after targeting a house in a daytime break-in last week.

The house at Victoria Fields in Oswestry was targeted while the occupants were out, police said.

Burglars forced their way into the property at some point between 9am and 5pm on Wednesday, January 15, by smashing a window at the back of the premises.

About £500 damage caused.

Contact police on 101 or the free and Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111.

Broadcast date for show filmed at an historic hall

LAST summer's visit by the *Antiques Roadshow* to Gregynog Hall, at Tregynon is to be broadcast in May.

Around 1,500 people attended the BBC1 filming in July, at the historic conference and events venue.

Karen Armstrong, Gregynog Hall's director, said: "It was a fantastic event and I can't wait to see the programme on May 25."

"It's wonderful exposure for Gregynog Hall to be seen by millions of viewers not only in the UK but around the world."

She thanked everyone involved in the event, including the public who braved the rain to have antiques valued.

Treasures discovered by the team of experts included a sapphire ring worth

£20,000, a French onyx clock worth £15,000 and a collection of Welsh porcelain valued at around £4,000.

Programme presenter Fiona Bruce revealed at the event that she is a frequent visitor to North Powys, as she has friends in the Welshpool area and loves Gregynog Hall and the surrounding area.

She expressed her admiration for spinster sisters Gwendoline and Margaret Davies, who lived at Gregynog Hall and established it as a centre for music and the arts. The sisters collected works by Rodin, Renoir, Monet, Cezanne and others and gifted them to the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

"They were extraordinary women," said Ms Bruce.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Motorist gets ban for racing red light

A 22-YEAR-OLD man has been banned from driving for more than three years after running a red light.

Blaine Daniel Kirkham, from Tan Y Mur in Montgomery, was stopped by police on New Year's Day after they saw him drive through the red light at Castle Street, Shrewsbury, without slowing down.

A breath alcohol test showed he was more than twice the drink drive limit and he was arrested.

At Shrewsbury Magistrates Court last Thursday Kirkham admitted driving while over the limit and was banned from driving for 40 months after magistrates heard that it was his second driving offence in three years.

He was given the option of being able to complete a drink driving course to have his ban reduced by 40 weeks.

He was also fined £230 and ordered to pay a £23 victim surcharge.

Prayer meeting

THE Oswestry Prayer for Israel group will meet on February 7.

The meeting at Hope Church in Laburnum Drive, Oswestry, will start at 7.30pm. For more information call Wendy Scott on (01691) 622266.

Owl could be the answer to town's pigeon problem

A LOCAL bird enthusiast and his pet animals could be the answer to Oswestry's pigeon pest problem, councillors will hear next week.

Town council chiefs say a pigeon deterrent trial, which saw St Martins bird enthusiast Harry Hamilton walk around Oswestry with one of his animals, produced "astonishing" results.

Councillors were being asked last night (Wednesday) whether they want to spend £4,500 a year on making Mr Hamilton's tours of the town a permanent arrangement.

by Graham Breeze

Stately home plan drawn up

PLANS for the potential future of Brogyntyn Hall – the ancestral home of the Harlech family – will be unveiled to councillors in the coming weeks.

Although the estate near Oswestry is still on the market for £5 million, J Ross Developments has drawn up plans for how the estate could be redeveloped.

The company, part of the Pickstock Group, will not comment publicly on its interest in the estate. But it has invited members of the Oswestry Town Council to a pre-planning application exhibition later this month.

Jonathon Bengough, from estate agents Knight Frank, said: "Brogyntyn is still on the market. We have had a great deal of interest both from across Britain and from abroad."

The current Lord Harlech sold the estate more than a decade ago after it had lain empty for 15 years.

A report to the councillors says Oswestry like any town has its "fair share" of pigeons along with their associated mess on buildings and pavement.

Council facilities manager Glenys Davies says in the report the town's historic Guildhall building suffers problems because of the pigeons and further problems came from associated secondary pests such as flies, fleas, mites, ticks and moths.

Mrs Davies said the town's showpiece Cae Glas Park also suffered with pigeons eating bedding plants and roosting in the trees especially over the children's playground.

Frighten

The report says council chiefs contacted Mr Hamilton, who runs the Close Encounters birds of prey company and keeps a Harris Hawk, a Common Buzzard, a European Eagle Owl and a Peregrine Falcon, to ask if he had any ideas.

Mrs Davies said: "Harry proposed walking around the town centre and Cae Glas Park with one of his birds twice a week to frighten the pigeons and so move them on."

"No birds are harmed during the process, simply frightened."

"Charge for each visit is £75 and it was proposed that twice a week would be a



Harry Hamilton from St Martins brought his European Eagle Owl, Barney into town to scare away the pigeons. Picture: Ian Sheppard.

reasonable deterrent and it was suggested that this proposal was put to the test.

"The twice weekly visits started in June to coincide with the summer bedding planting in the park and the reduction in pigeon numbers was astonishing."

"In fact no pigeons are present when the walks are being carried out."

"If Harry was allowed to fly his birds early in the morning in the park the effect would be more lasting."

"Since the trial began Shropshire Council's Street Scene department have seen a notable reduction in pigeons on Festival Square."

"Pigeons used to swarm in the square and settle on the Majors building in their hundreds."

"This has noticeably reduced."

"Shropshire Council has asked Harry to hold a promotional event on Festival Square in the next few weeks."

Police are praised for work on equality

A POLICE force has been commended for its work by a UK equality group.

For the sixth consecutive year North Wales Police has been recognised as one of the country's leading employers by the Stonewall organisation.

Stonewall has jointly ranked North Wales Police and South Wales Police as the top police forces in the UK.

The charity campaigns for equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people in all aspects of society, has ranked North Wales Police at number 19 in its top 100 employers.

The announcement marks the second consecutive time that North Wales Police has ranked in the top 20 employers and the sixth year that the force has featured in the index.

Lee Bailey from North Wales Police said: "We are delighted with the announcement."

"This is yet again testament that North Wales Police is a fair and caring employer and has robust procedures, practices and policies in place that ensure that people are treated equally."

"We continually strive to ensure that everyone employed by the force – regardless of their ethnicity, beliefs, gender or sexual orientation, feels comfortable in their place of work."

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Healthy diet is essential to help avoid winter blues

Advertisement feature

KEEPING healthy in winter often feels too much of an effort.

We feel tired and sluggish. We try to brighten the days with the wrong types of diet, expecting our bodies to cope, and of course we studiously ignore the resolutions we made in the early hours of January 1.

A bad diet and limited exercise can, however, affect the immune system, increasing the chances of falling foul of winter viruses, not to mention impacting badly on our weight and issues such as blood pressure. Here, then, are some simple steps to take to start that much needed spring clean:

- Drink lots of water – aim for 1-1.5 litres daily to start flushing out the urinary tract.
- Drink herbal teas rather than coffee, black tea and fizzy drinks.

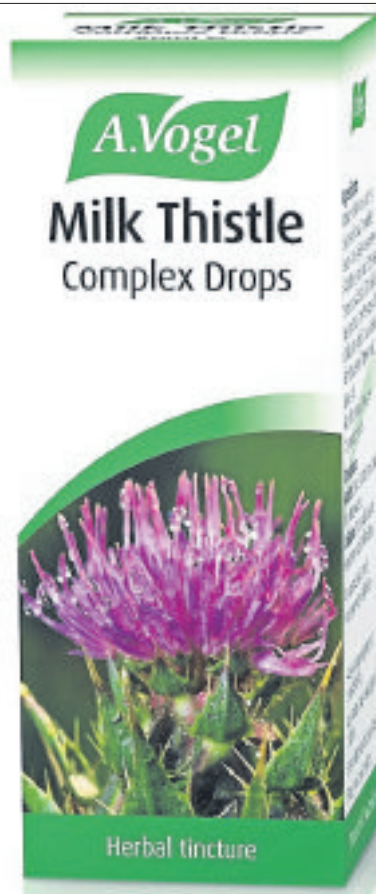
- Boost circulation with exercise, at least a brisk 10-minute walk in the fresh air daily to get the lymphatic system and lungs working.

- Cut down on processed foods and alcohol. Eat more fruit, vegetables and whole foods.

- Relax – unwind for at least 30 minutes before going to bed to encourage better sleep.

As well as these lifestyle changes, there are herbs that can help the body detox and revitalise in time for winter.

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YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Impressive property even has its own cinema room

A stunning, individually designed four-bedroom residence in an enviable position, 41 Morda Close, Oswestry, has accommodation arranged over three levels.

The detached property is on the market through Woodhead Estates, who are seeking offers in the region of £594,950.

The entrance hall has a feature oak staircase rising to first floor accommodation and stairs leading down to the lower ground floor with oak flooring. The living room has a feature inglenook

fireplace with a gas or log burner fire, stone hearth and bare brickwork surround, an integrated music system, a bay window and patio doors out to balcony decking.

The cinema room has a cinematic sound system with a 42 Panasonic plasma screen TV.

The dining room has oak flooring and doors leading out to a decking balcony area.

The kitchen includes granite worktop surfaces, an integrated sound system, ceramic tiled flooring, built in microwave, dishwasher, a two oven

aga, an island with an electric cooker and a four point induction hob. The lower ground floor has ceramic tiled flooring throughout and is split into two, one end having a steam shower and sauna and the other being fitted with a kitchen with a fridge and dishwasher which serves a breeze house which is reached through the twin double glazed doors.

For further information or to arrange a viewing, contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadestates.com



Three-bed rural cottage is beautifully presented

An immaculate three-bedroom detached character cottage in a quiet location is on the market for offers around £269,950.

The accommodation at Wddyn Cottage, Stoney Road, Treflach, comprises a large reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a large driveway providing ample parking and a good-sized private garden to the rear.

The property benefits from gas central heating and upvc double glazing, and the agents recommend early viewing.

Call Town & Country on 01691679631 to find out more.



Character farmhouse has wonderful country views

View Farm in Marton, near Welshpool, is an attractive detached stone farmhouse with magnificent views and outbuildings with potential for conversion.

On the market for £250,000, the well maintained property has a kitchen, cloakroom, utility, sitting room with inglenook and wood-burner and a second reception room with country views.

On the first floor are three double bedrooms and a bathroom. The property has ample parking, garage, car port, range of traditional outbuildings and good-sized gardens.

Call Halls on 01938 555552 to find out more.



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TOWN & COUNTRY

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LETTINGS

- Oswestry, 1 Bed Apartment £450pcm
- Oswestry, 2 Bed Semi £465pcm
- Oswestry, 2 Bed Semi £475pcm
- Llanrhaeadr, 3 Bed £475pcm
- Oswestry, 2 Bed Mid Terrace £475pcm
- Chirk, 3 Bed Semi £495pcm
- Glyn Ceiriog, 2 Bed Bung £500pcm
- Llanfyllin, 3 Bed House £500pcm
- Chirk Bank, 3 Bed Semi £525pcm
- Llanfyllin, 3 Bed Semi £525pcm
- Oswestry, 3 Bed Semi £575pcm
- Chirk, 3 Bed Semi £575 pcm
- Pant 3 Bed Semi £600 pcm
- Dudleston Heath, 4 Bed Det £600pcm
- Pant, 3 Bed Det £650pcm
- ***Fees Apply on all rental properties***

DOLYWERN, GLYN CERIOG



- End of Terrace Cottage
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Driveway parking

- EPC E
- Village Location
- Picturesque Views

£120,000

OSWESTRY



- Semi-detached Bungalow
- Cul-de-sac Location
- Garage and Parking

- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Extended To Rear. EPC C

Offers in the region of £120,000

LLANGYNOG



- Detached Country Cottage
- In Need Of Updating
- Many Original Features
- Two Double Bedrooms. EPC E
- Two Reception Rooms
- Views To The Front
- Oil Central Heating
- NO CHAIN!!!

£125,000

FOUR CROSSES



- Cottage Close To Canal
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Original Features. EPC F

- Off Road Parking
- Immaculate Condition
- Cottage Garden

£125,000

ST MARTINS



- Semi-Detached Cottage
- Two Bedrooms
- Extensive Landscaped Gardens

- Parking Space. EPC E.
- Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Recommended

Reduced to £139,950

ST MARTINS



- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Beautifully Presented

- Garden to Rear
- Garage. EPC C
- Viewing Recommended

£249,950

OSWESTRY



- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms & En Suite
- Garage and Utility. EPC C

- Extended Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£139,995

LLANMYNECH



- NO CHAIN
- End Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms. EPC D

- Off Road Parking
- Rear Gardens
- Good Sized Garage

£144,950

OSWESTRY



- Detached Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Garage and Driveway

- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Upvc D.G. & Gas C. H.
- EPC Rating - D

£146,950

GLYN CERIOG



- Semi-Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Dates Back to 1876

- Gardens to Rear. EPC D
- Workshop to Rear
- Views Over Countryside

£165,000

MORDA



- Modern Mews House
- Four Bedrooms. EPC B
- Garage and Parking
- Backing onto Open Fields

£169,950

ST MARTINS



- Detached Cottage
- In Need of Renovation
- Two Bedrooms
- Conservatory. EPC F.

£170,000

CEFN MAWR



- TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION ON 20TH FEB 2014
- Two Semi-Detached Properties

- 1 x Three Bedroom
- Potential to make into three houses
- In Need of Some Updating

Guide price £170,000

PENYBONTFAWR



- Large Semi Detached
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms

- Inglenook Fireplace. EPC E
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Picturesque Location

£173,500

FRONCYSYLLTE



- **REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE**
- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms

Reduced to £175,000



- Off Road Parking
- Well Maintained. EPC E.
- Popular Location

OSWESTRY



- NO CHAIN
- Extended Semi-Detached House
- Well Maintained. EPC E

- Conservatory
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

Offers in the region of £179,950

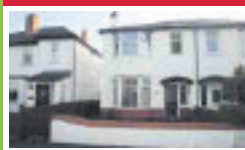
LLYNCLYS



- Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Rear Garden
- Ample Parking. EPC E

£179,950

OSWESTRY



- Semi-Detached Property
- Sought After Location
- Three Bedrooms. EPC E
- Two Reception Rooms

£179,950

LLANRHAEDR



- Detached House
- Former Village Police Station
- Set in Approx. 1/3 Acre
- Three Bedrooms. EPC F

Offers in the region of £200,000

DOLYWERN



- Semi-Detached Cottage
- Four Bedrooms. No Chain.
- Many Original Features
- Former Malt House & Watermill

£219,950

WESTON LULLINGFIELDS



- Large Semi Detached Cottage
- Four Double Bedrooms
- NO CHAIN!!!
- Large Rear Garden

Offers in the region of £245,000

OSWESTRY



- ***NO CHAIN***
- Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms (Two En-Suites)
- Two Reception Rooms. EPC D

£249,950



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RICHMOND HARVEY

Baytree Close, St Martins



4 bedroom detached house: Feature Entrance Porch, Vaulted Reception Hall, Living Room with feature fireplace, Playroom, L shaped Sun Room, Spacious Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility, Cloakroom, First Floor Gallery Landing, Master Bedroom Ensuite with Mezzanine over, Three Further Bedrooms, Attractive Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Fired Underfloor Heating, Gravel Driveway, Detached Garage and Gardens. EPC RATING C. Viewing Fully Recommended.

Offers in Region of £335,000

Babbinswood



Tastefully improved by the present owner, Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to release this most well appointed 4 bedroom detached country cottage which is set in just under 2.75 acres or thereabouts. Approached over a long driveway providing extensive parking, the property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Shower Room, Study, Living Room with feature fireplace, Dining Room, Attractive Re-Fitted Kitchen, Utility and Conservatory, First Floor Landing, Four Bedrooms, Attractive Re-Fitted Bathroom, Oil Fired Central Heating, PVC Double Glazing, Useful Brick Built Outbuilding. Viewing Fully Recommended. EPC RATING E

Offers in Region of £389,950



Longfield, Chirk

Spacious 2 bedroom end terraced house: Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Garden Room, First Floor Landing, 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Oil Fired Central Heating, PVC Double Glazing, Driveway, Gardens. Viewing Fully Recommended. EPC RATING C

Offers in Region of £114,000



Turners Lane, Llynclys

3 bedroom split level house near to Llynclys Common Nature Reserve and set in 0.5 acres or thereabouts of gardens. Accommodation: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room, Garden Room, Utility, Boiler Room, Oil Fired Central Heating, Workshop. EPC RATING D

Offers Over £300,000



Henlle Lane, Weston Rhyn

A character detached barn conversion which has been sympathetically renovated by the present owners. The property enjoys a delightful location overlooking open parkland towards Henlle golf course. With flexible living and the potential for annexe or bed and breakfast facilities. EPC RATING C.

Offers in Region of £410,000



Church Lane, St Martins

A 3 bedroom detached bungalow which benefits from an attached double garage and garden room extension. The property also comprises: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Double Glazing where stated, Gas Fired Central Heating, EPC RATING D

Offers in Region of £229,995



Canal Road, Four Crosses

3 bedroom detached cottage: Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Spacious Living/Dining Room, Attractive Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, WC, 3 Bedrooms (Master Ensuite), Family Bathroom, Oil Fired CH, PVC Double Glazing, Gated Driveway, Gardens. No onward Chain. EPC RATING E

Offers in Region of £299,950



Oak Drive, Oswestry

3 bedroom mature semi detached family house to the market which briefly comprises: Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Side Porch, First Floor Landing, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gardens to Front, Side and Rear, Driveway and Garage. No Chain. EPC RATING C

Offers in Region of £169,950



Bwlch-y-ddar, Llangedwyn

4 bedroom detached smallholding set in approx 8 acres enjoying far reaching countryside views with, Oil Fired Central Heating, Cottage style garden, Open Fronted Workshop, Car Port and Two Grass Paddocks. Viewing Recommended. EPC RATING F

Offers in Region of £385,000



Penybontfawr

3/4 bedroom cottage with attached 1 bedroom self contained annexe offering an ideal investment opportunity and large detached garage/workshop with generous neatly landscaped gardens. Viewing Fully Recommended. EPC RATING E

Offers in Region of £259,950



Greenhill Bank, Crifftins

A 4 bedroom detached house to the market which enjoys a delightful rural position conveniently placed for Ellesmere, St Martins and Oswestry. The property briefly comprises: Porch, Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Conservatory, Utility, Ground Floor WC, Oil Fired Central Heating, PVC Double Glazing. EPC RATING E

Offers in Region of £229,995



Abernant, Acrefair

Offering scope for improvement yet offering the opportunity of purchasing a truly spacious family home, Richmond Harvey Properties are favoured with instructions of marketing 'Cemetery House' a mature detached residence which has the benefit of being sold with No Onward Chain. EPC RATING E

Offers in Region of £165,950



Coppice Drive, Oswestry

3 bed mature semi detached house which is situated near to Old Oswestry Hill Fort. PVC Double Glazing where stated, Gas Fired Central Heating, Driveway providing ample off road parking and generous rear garden. EPC RATING C

Offers in region of £129,950



Four Crosses, Powys

5 bed detached farmhouse which benefits from traditional outbuildings to include: which both have planning permission for conversion together with a further range of outbuildings to include workshop, stabling and useful storage. Set in approx 1.8 acres. EPC RATING G

Offers in region of £620,000



Victoria Road, Oswestry

Offering a wealth of character features and enjoying a much sought after location, Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to release this most spacious period five bedroom detached family residence. EPC RATING D

Offers in Region of £350,000



High Street, Weston Rhyn

●●NO CHAIN●● 5 bed period detached village residence with 4 reception rooms lending itself to bed and breakfast/guest house potential. Generous Gardens, Two Single Garages and Driveway. Viewing Recommended. EPC RATING F

Offers in Region of £337,000



St Martins Road, Gobowen

4 bedroom detached house which enjoys a pleasant edge of village location and well planned accommodation with Generous neatly landscaped gardens with separate annexe bedroom, Gravel driveway, Garage and surrounding gardens. A must see property. EPC RATING C

Offers Over £300,000



Porth-Y-Waen

●●PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED●● 3 bedroom detached country residence with private equestrian facilities set in approximately 2.5 acres of gardens, pastureland and a meadow. Long gravel driveway leading to ample parking provision/stabling, Stabling and Workshop. EPC RATING F

Offers in Region of £299,950



Wern, Llanymynech

4 bedroom detached edge of village residence which enjoys truly delightful views and landscaped gardens of approximately 0.25 acre with Oil Fired Central Heating, Driveway providing ample off road parking and Double Garage. Viewing Fully Recommended. EPC RATING D

Offers in Region of £295,000



Pool Quay

A rare opportunity to purchase a traditional attached former farm building with full planning permission (No M97071) for conversion into a superior 5/6 bedroom family home. Viewing recommended. NO EPC AVAILABLE

Price Guide £285,000



Woolston Road, West Felton

Tastefully improved 2/3 bedroom detached bungalow offers excellent internal accommodation and a generous plot with surrounding countryside aspect with separate annexe bedroom, Gravel driveway, Garage and surrounding gardens. A must see property. EPC RATING E

Offers in Region of £270,000



Oak Drive, Oswestry

●●PRICED TO SELL●● Mature detached family house which enjoys a pleasant cul-de-sac position with, PVC Double Glazing where stated, Gas Fired Central Heating, Dual Entrance Driveway providing extensive parking, Carport and Gardens. MUST BE SEEN. EPC RATING D

Offers Over £249,500

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Oswestry 41 Morda Close
4 BED DET HOUSE
CINEMA ROOM
LOWER GROUND FLOOR
EPC RATING C
OIRO £594,950



Llanyblodwel 41 Oakhurst Road
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
OPEN PLAN LIVING AREA
EPC RATING C
OIRO £379,950



Pentre Stone Cottage
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £339,950



Porth-y-waen Haulfryn
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
EQUINE FACILITIES
EPC RATING F
OIRO £299,950



Selattyn Rock House
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/ DINER
EPC RATING D
OIRO £269,950



Selattyn Fir Bank
4 BED DET HOUSE
SPLIT LEVEL PROPERTY
OIL CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £249,950



Glyn Ceiriog Glascoed
3 1/2 BED DET BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
ENVIABLE VIEWS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £249,950



Oswestry 41 Oakhurst Road
3 BED TERRACED HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £224,950



Welshampton The Knowles
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
KITCHEN/ DINER
SOUTH FACING GARDEN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £219,950



Oswestry 59 Hampton Road
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
SINGLE GARAGE
EPC RATING E
ASKING PRICE £194,950



Llanymynech Coed Y Lade
3 1/2 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OFFERS OVER £184,950



Oswestry 66 Upper Church Street
3 BED TOWN HOUSE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £174,950



Oswestry 55 Henley Drive
3 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £169,995



Gobowen Holmlea
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £159,950



Whittington 49 Penybryn Avenue
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
MODERN KITCHEN
EPC RATING C
OIRO £137,500



Oswestry 45 Brookhouse Road
3 BED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
LIVING/DINING ROOM
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £134,950



Oswestry 62 Whitefriars
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £157,950



Gobowen 11 Perry View
2 BED DET BUNGALOW
UTILITY AREA
PVC D/G WHERE STATED
EPC RATING D
OIRO £144,950



Gobowen 8 Trinity Close
3 BED SEMI-DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
EN-SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING C
OIRO £144,950



Llanfyllin 14 Bron Y Gaer
4 BED TERRACED HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £139,950



Whittington 49 Penybryn Avenue
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
MODERN KITCHEN
EPC RATING C
OIRO £137,500



Oswestry 45 Brookhouse Road
3 BED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
LIVING/DINING ROOM
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £134,950



Oswestry 4 Stewart Road
3 BED TERRACE HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £122,500



St Martins 22 Coopers Field
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
UTILITY/STORE ROOM
FAMILY PARKING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £119,950



St Martins 2 New Terrace
2 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £115,500



Oswestry 20 Lllys Road
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
KITCHEN/ DINER
EPC RATING D
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
OIRO £114,950



Oswestry 3 Regent Court
2 BED RETIREMENT PROPERTY
GROUND FLOOR
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £114,950



Oswestry 61 York Street
2 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £109,950



Oswestry 82 Castle Street
2 BED TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/ DINER
EPC RATING C
OIRO £104,950



Oswestry 84 Willow Street
2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING C
£102,950



Llanymynech 3 Ashfield Terrace
2 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
IN NEED OF MODERNISING
EPC RATING F
£99,995



Oswestry 9 Minshall Place
2 BED MAISONETTE
MOTIVATED SELLER
DOUBLE GLAZED
EPC RATING D
OFFERS OVER £87,500



Oswestry 3 Abraham Court
1 BED GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
RETIREMENT PROPERTY
EPC RATING C
COMMUNAL GARDEN
OIRO £84,950



Gobowen 1 Meadowbrook Court
1 BED SEMI-DET BUNGALOW
LIVING/DINING ROOM
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OFFERS OVER £69,950

LETTINGS

49 ALBERT ROAD, OSWESTRY. 1 BED FLAT£300 PCM
23 YORK STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE£450 PCM
17 IORNE STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE£450 PCM
19 SCHOOL ROAD, WEST FELTON. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE£450 PCM
47 ABRAHAM COURT, OSWESTRY. 1 BED APARTMENT£470 PCM
42 HEATHER CLOSE, OSWESTRY. 2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE£475 PCM
15 CHERRY TREE DRIVE, OSWESTRY. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE£495 PCM
32 FERRERS ROAD, OSWESTRY. 3 BED TERRACED HOUSE£495 PCM
19 HERITAGE WAY, LLANYMYNECH. 4 BED TOWN HOUSE£550 PCM



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INVESTMENT PROPERTY, OSWESTRY



NEW
A Freehold Investment Property comprising a converted chapel extending to approximately 5,000 sq ft, situated within the heart of the busy market town of Oswestry. The property is one of the landmark buildings within the town centre. EER - D

Fully let on two co-terminus effectively FR & I leases to an established Gym business.

BUSINESS NOT AFFECTED.

£310,000

Oswestry



A prime town centre retail/office premises adjacent to the main central car park with return to Old Chapel Court, extending to approximately 1541 sq ft. Would suit either retail business or professional office, having its excellent display frontage.

Rent on Application

St Martins



NEW
An immaculate semi-detached house comprising living room, conservatory, breakfast kitchen, utility, cloakroom, three bedrooms (master en-suite) and family bathroom, front and rear gardens, garage and parking. EER - C

£169,950

West Felton



NO CHAIN
A recently refurbished semi detached house in a popular village with easy access to the road network, comprising modern breakfast kitchen, living room, conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom, good sized enclosed rear garden and off street parking. EER - D

£112,950

Guilfield



NEW HOME
A new build detached executive home on a select development, comprising dining kitchen, utility, three reception rooms, two ensuite bedrooms, two further bedrooms, family bathroom, garage and enclosed garden backing on to open parkland.

£335,000

St Martins



NO CHAIN
Refurbished detached bungalow set in a generous plot comprising contemporary kitchen, large living room, three bedrooms, bathroom, attached double garage with useful studio room, gardens, patio and decked areas. EER - F

£209,950

Oswestry



NEW HOME
New build contemporary town house comprising open plan living area with fully fitted kitchen, master bedroom with ensuite shower room and balcony, two further good sized bedrooms, family bathroom and off street parking.

£149,950

LETTINGS

OSWESTRY

1 Bed First Floor Flat, Town Centre (EER - E) **£310 pcm** (£500 Deposit)
2 Bed Second Floor Flat with Roof Terrace (EER - E) **£520 pcm** (£520 Deposit)
2 Bed Contemporary Furnished Apartment (EER - C) **£525 pcm** (£750 Deposit)

KINNERLEY

2/3 Bed Semi-Detached House (EER - E) **£525 pcm** (£750 Deposit)

GLYN CEIRIOG

2 Bed Contemporary Apartment (EER - C) **£450 pcm** (£450 Deposit)

SHREWSBURY

1 Bed Fully Furnished Apartment (EER - C) **£525 pcm** (£750 Deposit)



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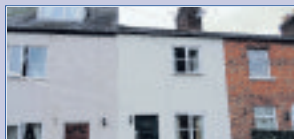
Wrexham

01978 340000

**NEW - PROPERTY WITH LAND**Cross Lanes
St Martins

£325,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a residential smallholding comprising of a 3/4 bedroom cottage
- Stables and outbuildings all standing in around 1.14 acres of gardens and paddocks
- The property is situated in an excellent rural location yet within walking distance of the centre of the popular village of St Martins
- Kitchen gardens, paddocks, stables, garages and outbuildings which have a host of future uses

**NEW**Park Terrace
Oswestry

£99,995

- Deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace property in an excellent location
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Gas fired central heating & timber D/G windows. EPC Rating
- Front garden with decked seating area & 2 good size storage sheds to rear
- Should be of interest to 1st time buyers & investor purchasers

**NEW**Cae Onan
Morda

£206,995

- A spacious and well appointed 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloak Room
- 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Good size rear garden, integral garage & ample off-road parking
- Gas C/H, and uPVC double glazing throughout. EPC Rating C

Whittington Road
Oswestry

£149,995

- Deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Town House in a popular position
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining/Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Cellar
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
- 2 further Double Bedrooms and large Family Bathroom
- In an elevated position, rear garden extending to approx. 80 feet
- Gas Central Heating. EPC Rating E

**NO CHAIN**The Cross
Gobowen

£249,995

- Period Detached house extensively renovated by the current owners
- Entrance Hall, Cellar, Lounge, Family Room, Study, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloakroom, Master Bedroom (En-Suite)
- 3 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good size garden to the rear and ample off-road parking to the front
- Gas fired central heating is installed. EPC Rating E

Hampton Rise
Oswestry

£249,995

- Immaculately presented 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow set in a corner plot
- 'L' shaped Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room
- 3 Further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom with Wet Room area
- Landscaped gardens with raised terraced area, single garage & 2 driveways
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D

**NO CHAIN**The Cross
Weston Rhyn

£189,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Formerly the Doctor's Surgery dating back to the late 1800's
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining/Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Cloakroom, Cellar, 2 Double Bedrooms, Wet Room
- Second Floor Master Suite with En-Suite Shower Room
- Excellent garden to rear with flowering beds & mature shrubs
- Double glazing and oil fired central heating. EPC Rating E

**NO CHAIN**Ifon Fields
St. Martins

£124,995

- A well appointed and deceptively spacious Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Cloakroom, Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- uPVC double glazing and gas central heating. EPC Rating D
- Private rear garden together with a large side garden
- Which could accommodate an extension to the property (subject to planning permission).

Station Road
Weston Rhyn

£139,950

- A spacious and well appointed 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached property
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Living Room, Conservatory, Kitchen with Dining Area
- 3 Bedrooms, En-Suite and a Family Bathroom
- Hard wood double glazing, gas fired central heating. EPC Rating C
- Which with ample parking to the front and paved gardens to the rear

**NEW PRICE - NO CHAIN**Marsland Close
St. Martins

£159,995

- A spacious Detached 3 Bedroom Bungalow in a quiet residential area
- Good sized private rear garden together with Garage and Carport
- Lounge, Kitchen, 3 Excellent Bedrms, Family Bathrm, Separate WC
- Oil fired central heating, uPVC D/G, fascia's and barges. EPC Rating E

Willow Street
Overton

£675,000

- Superbly appointed 4 bedroom detached Family residence
- Standing in terraced gardens and grounds extending to 0.22 acre
- 4 Reception Rooms, Conservatory
- Large Family Kitchen, Master Suite with dressing area
- Further 3 double Bedrooms & Large Contemporary Family Bathroom.
- Large well maintained Gardens, Double Garage. EPC rating 'D'

**NEW BUILD - NO CHAIN**Chirk Road
Gobowen

£214,995

- A Brand New Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home
- A full 10 year NHBC Guarantee & carpeting throughout
- Cloaks, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Separate Dining Area, Conservatory, Utility
- 4 Excellent Bedrooms (master en-suite) & Luxury Family Bathrm
- Ample parking, deceptively spacious rear garden & patio area
- Gas C/H. D/G. Predicted Energy Assessment B

Barber Close
Oswestry

£174,995

- Well appointed & deceptively spacious 4/5 Bedroom, 3 Storey Townhouse
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
- Utility Room, Study/Bedroom 5, Lounge
- 2 Bedrooms & Bathroom with 2 further large Bedrooms (master en-suite)
- A paved patio area to the rear and a lawned garden to the side
- Single garage and driveway, Gas C/H & uPVC D/G. EPC Rating B

Rectory Terrace
Welsh Frankton

£150,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 4 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Standing in terraced gardens and grounds extending to 0.22 acre
- Stunning views over open countryside towards Rodney's Pillar
- Sun Room, Cloaks, Living/Dining Room, Kitchen, Lounge
- 4 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Externally a raised patio area takes full advantage of the views
- Formal gardens and vegetable plots. Oil C/H. D/G. EPC Rating E

Aspen Grange
Weston Rhyn

£139,950

- A most comfortably appointed 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached property
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen
- Three Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Double glazing, gas fired central heating
- Gardens to the fore and rear, garage and ample car parking
- Double glazing, gas fired central heating. EPC Rating C

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STRUTT & PARKER

Crickheath | Shropshire



A newly renovated three bedroom detached property with paddock and stable located in the peaceful hamlet of Crickheath
2 Reception rooms | Kitchen | Cloakroom | Utility | 3 Bedrooms
Bathroom | Garage | Paddock & stable | Newly renovated throughout
Includes water rates | EPC rating D

Rent £800 *

Lettings 01743 284204

Ellesmere | Shropshire



An attractive newly decorated three bedroom detached property providing good sized accommodation in a rural setting
Entrance hall | Kitchen | Sitting room | Cloakroom | Study
Master bedroom | Bathroom | 2 Further bedrooms | Garage
Large garden | EPC rating F

Rent £795 *

Lettings 01743 284204

Ellesmere | Shropshire

NEW



A spacious two bedroom cottage which has been renovated to a good standard whilst maintaining plenty of character throughout
Recently renovated | Large sitting room | Kitchen/diner | Cloakroom
Study/2nd reception room | 2 Double bedrooms | Garden & courtyard
Shed & outbuilding | Parking for 2 cars | EPC rating E

Rent £650 *

Lettings 01743 284204

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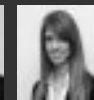
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- Cloakroom
- 5 Bedrooms/2 Baths
- Double Garaging
- Possibility to split accommodation
- EPC Band - C
- JJD833

£400,000

OSWESTRY



- Modern Detached Bungalow
- GFCH & D/G
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage And Parking
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Cul De Sac Location
- EPC Band D
- JJD814

£138,950

PARK HALL, NR. OSWESTRY



- GFCH & D/G
- Dining Kitchen
- Sitting Room
- Sun Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Large Attractive Garden
- Garage & Parking
- Occupying Quiet Position
- EPC Band - D
- JJD820

£139,500

LLANRHAEDR YM MOCHNANT



- Traditional Village Cottage
- Oil Fired CH
- Sitting Room
- Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Adjoining Garage/Outbuilding with Loft
- EPC Band - F
- JJD834

£139,950

OSWESTRY



- GFCH & UPVC DG
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Modern Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Near to local facilities
- Ample parking
- Caravan Standing And Trailer space.
- EPC Band - D
- JJD826

£149,750

PANT, NR. OSWESTRY



- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Breakfast/Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Enclosed Front Garden
- Parking for 4/5 cars
- Workshop
- Includes B/Plot with Full P/P for Dwelling
- EPC Band F
- JJD807

£350,000

GOBOWEN



- Close Care Residential Bungalow on purpose-built complex
- C/H, D/G
- Lounge/Dining Area
- UPVC Conservatory
- Large Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- Good Size
- Semi-Rural Location
- EPC Band D
- JJD811

£109,500

LLYNCLYD, NR. OSWESTRY



- UPVC D/G Electric Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Double Beds
- En-Suite Dressing Area
- Car Port and Garage
- Caravan Standing Views To Rodney's Pillar
- EPC Band E
- JJD725

£250,000

PORTH-Y-WAEN



- Exceptionally Well Appointed Country Property
- Central Heating & D/Glazing
- 2 Good Sized Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 3 Beds
- En-suite
- Bathroom
- Double Garaging and Workshop
- Attractive Garden And Small Paddock
- EPC Band E
- JJD749

£274,500

OSWESTRY



- UPVC D/G & GFCH
- Cloakroom
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen & Utility
- 5 Beds 2 En-suite
- 2 Bathrooms
- Detached Double Garage
- Prominent Corner Plot
- Reasonable Walking Distance of Town
- Cul de sac road
- EPC Band C
- JJD828

£325,000

OSWESTRY



- Well Appointed Detached House
- GFCH & UPVC D/G
- Dining Kitchen
- Sitting Room
- Good Size Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Ample Parking
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Garage
- EPC Band - E
- JJD812

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- JJD832

£55,000

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Charming converted mill comes with detached bungalow

A superbly converted Grade II listed mill and detached two-bedroom bungalow in a lovely position next to open farmland are for sale at a guide price of £540,000. Weston Mill at Weston, near Oswestry, is full of character, with the original mill workings exposed in many rooms. It has an entrance hall, workshop, kitchen/dining room, sitting room, cloakroom, study area, drawing room, master bedroom with en-suite and dressing area, three further bedrooms, one en-suite, main bathroom, sun deck, gardens, mill pond, parking and a car port.

The Falls, next to Weston Mill, is a detached two-bedroom bungalow which is currently let and offers good additional accommodation, or an income. Contact Strutt & Parker on 01743 284200 to arrange a viewing.

**STRUTT
& PARKER**



Four-bedroom period property in heart of popular village

A rare opportunity to purchase a period property in the centre of the popular village of Gobowen has arisen with Bowen Son & Watson. Temperance House, The Cross, has been extensively renovated by the current owners to create an excellent family home with a host of original features.

With gas central heating, the spacious accommodation includes an entrance hall, cellar, lounge, family room, study, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom, four bedrooms, one en-suite, and a family bathroom. There is a good-sized rear garden to the rear and ample off-road parking to the front.

The agents have set an asking price of £249,995. Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 to find out more.



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Pictured left to right: Kate Howell (Agency Owner), Harriet Fallon (Senior Customer Consultant) and Daniel Graham.

Source: ABC

Halls



Greenbank Close, Oswestry

Price: £157,500

A South Facing detached two bedroom bungalow situated on a corner plot in a quiet cul de sac location, a short walk from Oswestry town centre having the benefit of a conservatory, detached garage, easy maintenance gardens, gas central heating and UPVC double glazing. This property needs to be viewed to be appreciated. Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry



Glen Pennant Gardens, Llangynog

Price: £64,950

This detached Chalet will be of interest to cash purchasers looking for a rural retreat.

- Living Area With Kitchenette
- 2 Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Garden Overlooking River Tanat
- Parking

Contact Oswestry



Tedsmore Road, West Felton

Price: £499,950

Situated in a most sought after rural location this spacious detached property must be viewed to be appreciated. The property has been extended and now provides two living quarters.

- 5 Bedroom
- Superb Kitchen Family Room
- Dating Back to Late 1800s
- Substantial Property
- Views To All Elevations
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry



Hampton Fields, Oswestry

Price: £249,950

This spacious detached bungalow benefits from a view over the cul de sac and over Oswestry town, with private rear gardens and three bedrooms.

- Master Bedroom With En-Suite & Dressing Room
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- In Need Of Slight Modernisation
- Garden To Front & Rear
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry



Glas Coed, Pontfadog

Price: £249,950

This beautifully presented three bedroom cottage bungalow has the most wonderful views across the Ceiriog Valley. Located in the picturesque village of Pantfadog which provides a post office, local shops and a river running through.

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gardens, Parking & Garage
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry



Bachia Cottage, Llanfyllin

Price: £399,950

This 1920's detached double fronted family home offers spacious accommodation and four acres of land or thereabouts.

- 5 Bedroom Property
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Three Garden Stores
- Approx 4 Acres Of Land
- In Need Of Some Updating
- Current EPC Rating G

Contact Oswestry



Orchard Drive, West Felton

Price: £189,950

This immaculate three bedroom detached family home is situated in a pleasant location within a most popular and sought after village.

- 3 Bedroom Detached
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens
- Oil CH & UPVC DG
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry



Golden Grove, Treflach

Price: £425,000

A fine example of a detached country residence situated in a most sought after rural location.

- 4 Double Bedrooms
- 4 Reception Rooms
- Double Garage & Ample Parking
- Mature South Facing Gardens
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry



Peach Tree House, Monfa, Llansilin

Price: £159,999

Dating back to 1860 this DETACHED family home offers spacious accommodation.

- 4 Bedrooms
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Countryside Walks
- Oil Central Heating
- Character Features
- Current EPC Rating F

Contact Oswestry



Church Cottages, Four Crosses

Price: £171,500

This charming semi detached cottage benefits from superb open views across farmland and to the Breidden Hills and boasts lovely gardens.

- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Gardens
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry



Derwen Deg, Chirk Bank

Price: £249,950

This delightful detached 1960's spacious bungalow is situated in an pleasant elevated location with views of the open countryside.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Popular Hamlet Location
- Garage & Ample Parking
- Gardens & 2 Ponds
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry



Waen Cottage, Llansantffraid

Price: £395,000

A charming detached country cottage situated in approximately 1.280 acres of splendid gardens and grounds offering spacious characterful accommodation located in a pleasant rural location.

- 4 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Paddock & Gardens
- Approx. 1.280 Acres
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry



The Poplars, Porthwywaen

Price: £249,950

This deceptively spacious detached cottage dates back to the 1700's and offers spacious accommodation and benefits from a half acre plot.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- 3 Receptions & Conservatory
- Easy Access To A483
- Oil Central Heating
- Gardens & Parking
- Current EPC Rating F

Contact Oswestry



Meadowbrook Court, Gobowen

Price: £107,500

A most well appointed two bedroom retirement bungalow situated on a purpose built development offering additional care facilities if required.

- 2 Bedrooms
- Lounge / Dining Area & Conservatory
- Garage & Parking
- Private Garden & Communal Gardens
- Current EPC Rating D
- Viewing Advised

Contact Oswestry



Mount View, Llanfechain

Price: £179,950

This detached family home benefits from lovely views of the open countryside and is situated in a popular cul de sac location in a semi rural location.

- 3 Bedroom Detached
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens & Views
- Oil CH
- Requires Modernisation
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry



Lower Chirk Bank, Chirk Bank

Price: £199,950

Located a stones throw from the Llangollen Canal this detached family home offers spacious accommodation. Situated in a most sought after semi rural location on the English / Welsh Border.

- 3/4 Bedrooms
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens
- Semi Rural Location
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating F

Contact Oswestry



Guinevere Close, Oswestry

Price: £139,950

A well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac position enjoying gas fired central heating, UPVC double glazing, UPVC fascias and soffits, garage and gardens.

- 3 Bedrooms
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Gas CH
- UPVC DG, Fascias & Soffits
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry



The Slades, West Felton

Price: Offers over £799,950

A unique four bedroom detached equestrian family home with three bedroom detached bungalow/annexe set in excess of 9 acres and featuring a range of useful outbuildings, stabling, workshops, garaging and barn.

- Country Lane Position
- Range Of Outbuildings
- Set In Excess Of 9 Acres
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry

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Bryn Cottage, Maesbury, SY10 8HD



FOR SALE BY PUBLIC
AUCTION - Thursday
20th March

- Rurally located detached three bedroom bungalow
- In need of significant refurbishment works
- Two receptions, kitchen, utility, bathroom & garage
- Enclosed gardens overlooking adjoining fields
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 1

GUIDE PRICE - £145,000

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

Former Hart & Trumpet, Gobowen



- Substantial detached former public house
- Suitable for residential conversion (stp)
- OPP for 4 self contained apartments,
- and one 3 bedroom semi-detached dwelling
- Capable of vertical split for 3 dwellings (stp)
- An investment or development opportunity
- Current EPC rating = D



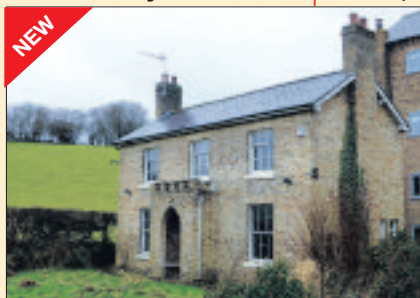
Land at the rear of Hart & Trumpet Gobowen. Guide Price £175,000

- Outline Planning Reference 13/00304/OUT
- Approval for 8 Dwellings. A pair of terraces comprising 4 dwellings
- Dwellings affording 3 bedrooms over 100 m2. Central village location
- Amenities readily available (subject to approval)
- Parking and garage provision

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

£165,000

Penylan Mill Farmhouse, Coed-y-Go



- Character property requiring refurbishment
- 3 double bedrooms, 3 receptions & living kitchen
- On-site parking and gardens
- Rural outlook over adjoining fields
- Offering potential to provide a family home
- Energy Efficiency Rating - 16 (G)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

£279,950



30 Bridge Street, Llanfyllin £99,950

- Two bedroom mid terrace town house
- Sitting room and fitted kitchen/breakfast
- G/floor bathroom, electric heating, double glazing
- Enclosed gravelled rear garden area
- Close to all town centre amenities. EPC rating = 44 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

6 Victoria Street, Oswestry



- Mid terrace house close to town
- Double glazing and gas central heating
- 2 Receptions, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom
- Rear garden, external store and W.C
- Well maintained with retained original features
- Internal inspection recommended
- NO CHAIN. Energy Efficiency Rating = 61

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

£119,950



9 Belle Vue, Morda, Oswestry £134,995

- Three bedroom semi-detached house
- Lounge, kitchen and ground floor cloaks
- Gas-fired central heating and double glazing
- Ample parking, enclosed rear garden
- Full width Upvc D/G conservatory at rear
- Available with no onward chain
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 59 (D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



1 Ardmillan Close, Oswestry £172,500

- Detached House with single garage
- Corner plot. Gas C/H, D/Grazed
- With scope for modernisation
- Two receptions, kitchen, sun room
- Three bedrooms and family bathroom
- Energy efficiency rating = 53

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



3 Brynglas, Welshpool £149,950

- Detached 3 Bedroom Town Bungalow
- Sitting Room, Kitchen/Dining. Shower Room
- Gas Heating, Double Glazed
- Car Port, Garage, Front and rear gardens
- Would benefit from modern refitting
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 65

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

77 Bryn-Y-Ddol, Welshpool



- Well Presented Detached House with views
- In Good Decorative Order Throughout
- Sitting Room. Kitchen/Dining. 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- UPVC Double Glazing. Combi Gas Heating
- Parking to side, Car Port. Enclosed rear garden
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 70

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

£175,000

Pen-Y-Berllan, Pontrobert, Meifod



- Detached Country Bungalow
- Sitting Room, Dining Area, Kitchen. Utility, Separate W.C
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom. Oil Fired Heating. Double Glazed
- Lawned surrounds. Barn and Lean-to. Open rural outlook to rear
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 40

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

£199,950

Penycod, Pontrobert, Meifod



- Detached and Extended Country Cottage
- Spacious Kitchen/Diner. Sitting Room, Conservatory, Utility
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom. Oil Fired Heating. Double Glazed
- Lawn and vegetable gardens. Store Shed.
- Open rural views to rear. Within easy reach of Meifod Village
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 21

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

£215,000



Land at Garthmyl, Montgomery Guide Price £200,000

- Development & Agricultural Land
- Half Acre Development Site
- Planning Consent for 3 Detached Houses
- Adjoining 5.7 Acres of agricultural/amenity land
- Situated between Welshpool and Newtown
- Ideal project opportunity

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deaths

JONES

Evelyn

Of Ash Road, Oswestry.
Passed away peacefully on January 12, 2014, aged 94 years.

Dearly loved Wife of the late Jim and a loving Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and Sister.

Funeral Service at Albert Road Evangelical Church, Oswestry on Monday, January 27, at 2pm, followed by Interment at Oswestry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to the Severn Hospice, Shrewsbury.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS
1 Upper Church Street
Oswestry
Telephone 01691 653116.

LEWIS

Robert Tudor

Passed away peacefully on January 14, 2014, at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, aged 87 years, formerly of Trefonen Hall.

Beloved Husband of the late Vera, dear Father of David and Margaret, Father-in-law of Yvonne and Michael, much loved Taid to Bethan, Richard, Ffion, Emma and Dan.

Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Trefonen on Friday, January 24, at 11.30am, followed by Interment in Trefarclawdd Cemetery, Trefonen.

Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, to The Coronary Care Unit at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and The Shropshire Air Ambulance.

Inquiries to

W.E. PRICE

Funeral Directors

Salop Road

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 652995.

OTT

Cynthia Margaret

nee Long

Passed peacefully away on January 6, 2014.

Much loved Wife of James and a treasured Sister of Mary and Hilary.

Funeral Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry on Tuesday, January 28, at 2.30pm, followed by Cremation at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, at 4pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK and New Fairholme Comfort Fund.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS
1 Upper Church Street
Oswestry
Telephone 01691 653116.

WILLIAMS

Irene May

Passed away peacefully, on January 13, 2014, at The Old Vicarage Nursing Home, Gobowen, aged 90 years.

Beloved Wife of the late Roy, loving Mother of Barry, Mother-in-law of Annie, much loved Grandma and Great-Grandma and dear Sister to Griselda.

Funeral Service at Preeshenille United Reformed Church on Wednesday, January 29, at 1.45pm, followed by Cremation at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, to Preeshenille United Reformed Church, Gobowen.

Inquiries to

W.E. PRICE

Funeral Directors

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memorial services

JONES

Isobel

A memorial Service giving thanks for the life of Isobel, of Lower Frankton, is to be held at St Andrew's Church, Welsh Frankton, on Sunday, January 26, at 2pm.

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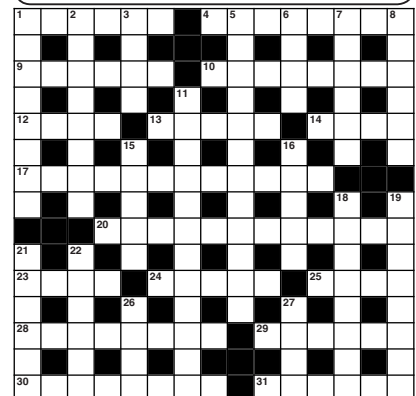
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CROSSWORD



Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS

- All the difference between life and death? (6)
- False description of a court-card (3-5)
- Put it on without being told? (6)
- 10 and 27 Down: Fascinating time, midnight (8,4)
- Vivacity is part of the language (4)
- An order form, perhaps (5)
- Third power block (4)
- Settles for leading parliamentarians (5,7)
- Upheaval Scot's ain rule could bring about (6,6)
- Be a shade over-extravagant? (4)
- Stone for a garden entrance, perhaps (5)
- Detain in a secure place (4)
- How to beat the streaker? (8)
- Reel composed of endless curtesying (6)
- 30 londe that is seen to be very lazy (4,4)
- Where the Ark went last (6)

DOWN

- Stop, don't switch on again! (5,3)
- He's willing to let others succeed (8)
- They carry weapons (4)
- I claim it's why it might be a fanciful characteristic (12)
- A loud part of the play, it's true (4)
- Its membership is limited (6)
- Extent of one's education (6)
- It's taken to give one restless retirement (8,4)
- A wild shot gets the musketeer (5)
- Threatened strike that doesn't come off (5)
- 18 Time of year that includes the present time (8)
- If you want to use the weighing machine, hurry! (4,2,2)
- Assimilate the sailor's world? (6)
- It may be done up, but not up (6)
- A case for a sempstress (4)
- See 10 Across

LAST WEEKS RESULTS

Across: 1 Emigration, 6 Isle, 10 Ennui, 11 Chain gang, 12 Newsreel, 13 Cheat, 15 Repress, 17 Science, 19 Stretch, 21 Renewal, 22 Alpha, 24 Assailed, 27 Efficient, 28 Ensur, 29 Nose, 30 Polo player.
Down: 1 Eden, 2 Innkeeper, 3 Rails, 4 Tickers, 5 Oracles, 7 State, 8 Eight bells, 9 Inaction, 14 Crustacean, 16 Entrance, 18 New Jersey, 20 Heave to, 21 Risotto, 23 Puffs, 25 Ideal, 26 Dear.

Local Specialists



TIPS OF THE WEEK

SUCH is the reputation that McDonald Landrover has built up at Oswestry that the company now offers services to owners of other makes of 4x4. New, fully trained staff have been recruited as the business expands to accommodate an increased demand to cater for all 4x4 brands. "We have taken on new staff who are experienced and trained on other makes and we have invested in the very best diagnostic equipment," said Rupert Astbury, at the Mile Oak Industrial Estate site. The business was purchased in 2001 as a small parts supply operation and moved to the current larger premises in 2002, opening the workshop with one mechanic. The business now has five people in the workshop, three on parts and one in the office. Parts stockholding is over £100,000 and any part that is not on the shelf can be obtained for the next day. McDonald Landrover also has a thriving website shop and are aiming to have the ability for customers to book cars into the workshop online later this year. The workshop staff have a wealth of experience backed up by the latest vehicle-specific diagnostic equipment, meaning any problem on any Land Rover from 1948 to the present day can be worked on. Servicing is undertaken using genuine Land Rover service parts ensuring that all vehicles still within their warranty period receive the correct work. "We are looking forward to 2012 being our best yet," said Rupert. "We have a very strong team, excellent work ethic and a determination to give the customer value for money," he added. When it comes to Land Rover servicing there is nobody better than McDonald Landrover, specialising in the maintenance of all Land Rover makes and models. The company has built up a solid client base in the Shropshire area over a number of years with a reputation for servicing of the highest quality.

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FEATURE & NEWS

01691 668094

Specialist teacher set up on her own

A WOMAN who was made redundant at the age of 53 has celebrated a year in business after deciding to start up afresh.

Sheena McKay, now 55, is now a specialist teacher for children with dyslexia. She set up her venture One to Learn CIC in January last year, having lost her job at Maesbury Primary School near Oswestry two years ago during the restructuring of the county's schools.

She is now hoping that her business can secure funding to help more school children, in particular primary school children who have failed to achieve the required phonics level at the end of years one and two.

Mrs McKay, who is a member of the British Dyslexia Association, said: "I had just qualified as a specialist dyslexia teacher when I was made redundant and while I wanted to set up a business to help support children and it started operating in January 2013."

Drama sessions

MASH-UP Arts fortnightly drama, dance, singing and poetry Saturday morning sessions will re-start on January 25 from 10am-12pm at Ysgol Maesydre, Welshpool. The sessions are for young people aged 10-15. Call Pat Edwards on 01938-811063.

Concerns over decline of some of our garden birds

AS I've remarked on several occasions, being a dog owner brings many benefits.

Chilly winter mornings whether frosty and crisp or wet and soggy, come rain or shine, the responsible owner never fails to take that morning constitutional; begrudgingly or otherwise. And of course it is on such wanderings that we see many an unexpected sight in the natural world.

However, it's not all plain sailing; there are dangers, too for our four-legged friends. Recently a small black terrier went missing in the Colemere area.

As an owner of a small black terrier myself, I can only imagine the pain of the owner as he continues to search for her. Roads, holes and even criminal gangs all pose other threats to every dog owner and of course we all must be responsible enough to "poo-pick".

In one's own garden fences must be secure and maintained and of course there's the local cat population to worry about. Despite the fact that whenever my hound actually encounters a feline that does not run, he has absolutely no idea what to do with it. I must admit to occasionally letting him have a run at one that is stalking the bird feeders.

Experience

However, if you were to live in certain states of the American West, the tables may well be turned somewhat. In California dogs are sometimes attacked by mountain lions. But as you may have guessed, if I had had an experience with a mountain lion, you would have heard about it before now! The closest I got whilst living there was a set of footprints in the sand.

Cats in this country don't mercifully come as large as cougars, but they are still an issue when it comes to wildlife.

I have long maintained that they are a major cause for garden bird declines. I am not in the business of believing things without evidence, though, and when scientific research argues in one direction, you won't find me writing to the contrary.

The Mammal Society estimates that the UK's cats

ON THE WILD SIDE
by Ben Waddams

catch up to 275 million prey items a year, of which 55 million are birds. This is the number of prey items that were known to have been caught. We don't know how many more the cats caught, but didn't bring home or how many escaped but subsequently died.

This is a huge number and might well justify outraged writings by myself or others. However, it would be dishonest of me to go with my heart on this one.

There is no scientific evidence that predation by cats in gardens is having any impact on bird populations UK-wide. This may be surprising, but many millions of birds die naturally every year, mainly through starvation, disease, or other forms of predation. The evidence instead suggests that cats tend to take weak or sickly birds.

The problem comes when cat predation is additional to other causes of mortality; ie an already rare species or species that is suffering a disease outbreak. This may well have a serious impact on bird populations and cat owners should make the effort to understand the current state of the species that their cats are killing.

Gardens provide a breeding habitat for at least 20 per cent of the UK populations of house sparrows, starlings, greenfinches, blackbirds and song thrushes four of which are declining across the UK.

For this reason it would be prudent to try to reduce cat predation as, although it is not causing the declines, some species are already under pressure.

The UK's birds should certainly keep an eye out for cats, cats in turn should keep an eye out for dogs but at least, in this country, dogs don't need to keep an eye out for cats.

Ben's latest work can be seen online at waddams.webs.com



Rocky Retreat - Mountain Lion by Ben Waddams.

MP backs dementia friends campaign

GLYN Davies, the Montgomeryshire MP is supporting a campaign by the Alzheimer's Society to increase the number of "Dementia Friends".

Mr Davies joined other MPs and Peers for a Dementia Friends session, held in the House of Commons.

The Dementia Friends initiative was launched in February 2013 by Alzheimer's Society, and aims to help people understand what it might be like to live with dementia and turn that into action.

The Alzheimer's Society is aiming to have one million Dementia Friends by 2015, to help make England & Wales more dementia-friendly and improve the lives of the 650,000 people currently living with the condition in the country.

Mr Davies was one of 30 MPs and Peers who took part in exercises aimed at helping participants understand the effect of dementia on people's lives.

The MP said: "As we all live longer, the number of people living with dementia is growing rapidly. Dementia is a very difficult disease to understand which makes it more important than ever that we all have better knowledge and awareness of what it's like to live with dementia."

To find out more see dementiafriends.org.uk

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NOSTALGIA SPECIAL

01691 668094

Sportsmen of yesteryear who brought glory

HERE they are, as promised – the sportsmen of yesteryear who brought glory to Oswestry over 100 years ago.

Last week we featured a picture of Oswestry Bowling Club taken at the back of the Wynnstey Hotel in 1912. It was one of two photos loaned to us by John Lythe, of Whittington, which belonged to his late brother Doug who died last year and were among his effects.

You've heard of Oswestry Town Football Club. Well, this isn't Oswestry Town, as such. It's the committee and players of Oswestry United Football Club, which won the Welsh Cup in the 1906 to 1907 season.

Founded in 1860, it was one of the world's oldest football clubs. It seems to have changed its name to Oswestry Town in about 1921.

Difficult

The names are printed at the bottom of the photo.

The key is a bit difficult to follow in terms of matching names to people, but here's our best effort: For the back row, from left: J. Roach, H. Done, W. Jones, E. Roberts, E. Williams, T.D. Parry. Then for the next row down there are: T. Milner (Assist. Sec), C. Jones (Hon. Treas.), W.G. Jones, A.E. Davies and then a big gap and then the name J.H. Williams who must be far right. Next row down we have J. Morris, G. Richards, E. Evans, F. Williams, and then a gap and then, on the right: J.C. Rodway (Hon. Sec), J. Pitchford, W. Milner. Next row down are G.W. Lacey (Chairman), C. Plimmer (Trainer), then a gap and then on the right W. Hallam, R. Groves, S. Lewis (Capt), J.

by Toby Neal

Pugh. Front are: J.H. Jones, G.A. Wynn, W. Williams, J. Boughey, J.L. Newbound (sic), H. Goodrich.

The photo was by L.E. Morris, Photo, Oswestry.

The location of the picture is not given, but there must be some reader out there to tell us where Oswestry United played at that time.

Doug lived at Lime Grove, Oswestry.

John said: "My brother died on September 14 at the age of 89. We gave him a real good send-off. There was no sadness about him, it was a celebration of his life. He will be sadly missed. He made everybody smile and laugh. He was that sort of chap, everybody knew him in Oswestry."

"He went as Doug, or his nickname Gunner – that was because he was a gunner in the Navy for six years. He was 17 when he signed up in 1940. He was stationed in the Caribbean. There's no family connection with the photographs. They're just things he kept. It's nice to have that sort of thing. It's part of the history of Oswestry."



Oswestry United Football Club.



Oswestry Museum
The Story of Oswestry



Oswestry Town Museum

Discover Oswestry's History

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Let's take a journey back through time



This building in Willow Street, Oswestry, has served many purposes. The Grade II listed building has seen life as a theatre, a malthouse and as an upholsterers.

THIS WEEK we take a journey back through time – looking at a series of pictures of events and scenes from Oswestry's past.

There are trains and cars, flood scenes and evocative old buildings. Most of the pictures have been shared by the Facebook site "Oswestry Remembered" and we are grateful to the site subscribers for the images reproduced in today's Oswestry & Border Chronicle.



Railwaymen were out digging to open the line near Oswestry during the severe snow of 1947.



This picture was taken in the centre of Oswestry. It is believed to date back to the 1960s.



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For most visitors the highlight will be a full day's game drive that brings the chance to see the sweeping savannah and muddy waterholes lined with animals, and to marvel at the incredible 150 mammal and 500 bird species that live in the Kruger National Park, including the 'big five': elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo. Rooms are reserved at the three-star superior Hippo Hollow Country Estate, located in the midst of lush forest on the banks of the Sabie River. It's open-air terrace overlooks the grounds and river, so watch out for the hippos!

Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

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NOSTALGIA SPECIAL

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Floods are nothing new to the area. This picture was taken near Arddleen in the 1940s.



An interesting line-up of vehicles parked outside businesses in Oswald Road.



This historic picture shows fireman Ken Jones along with unknown engine driver and goods guard at Porthywaen road crossing with the last through goods train from Liangynog to Oswestry on July 2, 1952.



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Shops on Bailey Street in Oswestry have been occupied by many different businesses since this picture was taken.



You could get a two course lunch for just two shillings and nine pence at the Criterion Cafe in Beatrice Street.



This picture of The Vic in Oswestry will bring back many happy memories for those who danced the night way at the town entertainment venue.



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NEWS

Singers sought by choir leaders

A MALE voice choir based just outside Oswestry is looking for new singers to swell its ranks.

The Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir, based at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen, was formed in 1968 as a charity and performs in Shropshire and surrounding counties to raise funds for charities, as well as visiting and performing in care homes, local clubs and associations and for the hospital.

Following television programmes such as Gareth Malone's Choir series the group is hoping to recruit new members, especially tenors, to its rehearsals.

Singers don't need any previous experience and all voices are welcome. The group practices on Thursday evenings in Meeting Room 1 at the Orthopaedic Hospital starting at 7.30pm. For more information visit www.omvc.org.uk or e-mail info@omvc.org.uk

Rehearsals start

OSWESTRY Choral Society has started rehearsals for its 2014 programme. The society will meet every Wednesday in term time at 7.30pm at Moreton Hall School, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry.

New members are always welcome.

Fundraising bid as festival makes a return to Meifod

WALES'S National Eisteddfod will be held in Meifod next year – and fundraising is already under way to help host it.

The 2015 event, a national cultural festival of Welsh music and literature competition, is to be held from July 31 until August 8 and it will have been 12 years since the event last visited Meifod back in 2003.

Local people involved in the event have pledged to raise funds towards the running costs of the week-long event. The people of Llanymynech, which straddles the Welsh/Shropshire border, have already started their fundraising preparation and will be holding a Carregghofa and Llanymynech's got Talent show on March 8 this year.

by Sue Austin

Pub's future rests on plan

THE future of a village pub could rest on whether planners give the go-ahead to a housing application, developers claimed.

The developers say the Cross Keys at Kinnerley is "currently at risk of closure" but redevelopment would be possible if the go-ahead is given to plans to build two semi-detached houses near the pub.

A design and access statement lodged in support of the application says the pub was sold by Admiral Taverns as a "non-viable public house" and acquired by applicant Malcolm Guest.

Chartered town planner Nigel Brown said in the statement: "The site includes a substantial underused area of land which has development potential that can serve to enhance the site and provide funding for the upgrading of the public house."

"The redevelopment of the site in this way will enable improvements to the pub." Shropshire Council hopes to make a decision on the application by March 7.

Spokeswoman Nesta McCluskey, said: "Llanymynech needs to raise £2,000 towards this target and the first fundraising occasion is the talent show."

"There will be a range of acts to see, singing and dancing from Carregghofa Primary School, local bands, drama performances and performances from local groups, young and old."

Delighted

The show will be held in Llanymynech village hall on March 8 at 7pm and tickets, costing £4 and £2, can be bought from the village shop or Carregghofa school or ring (01691) 839979.

If any local group would like to take part in the show, or if anyone would like to donate a raffle prize call (01691) 839979.

When news of the 2015 event at Meifod was announced Eisteddfod chief executive, Elfed Roberts, said: "I'm delighted that we will be returning to Montgomeryshire, to Meifod and to Mathrafal, home of the 2003 Eisteddfod."

"This was a hugely successful week for the festival, with support from all corners of the catchment area."

"The area has been keen to invite the Eisteddfod again for some time. We want to encourage people from all over Montgomeryshire to be part of the preparations."

Outreach group given car cash



From the left Elaine Payne, CHUMS volunteer, Vicki Hughes, CHUMS Coordinator at Qube and Fiona Hammond of Qube.

VOLUNTEERS in the Oswestry area will be taking to the road in a new set of wheels after getting Big Lottery funding to buy a new car.

The vehicle, run by Qube and CHUMS, will offer shopping assistance to isolated and vulnerable people across the north of the county who either need help to get the shops or are housebound or need shopping delivered.

Vicki Hughes, volunteer co-ordinator for

CHUMS, said: "This is a fantastic development for the shopping aspect of the project. The shopping service is carried out by trained volunteers who need to travel out to rural villages, so it's essential that they can get around quickly and easily."

Anyone interested in volunteering or finding out more about the shopping service can call Vicki at Qube on (01691) 656882 or email v.hughes@qube-oca.org.uk

NEWS

in brief

Free workshops to help cyclists

A SERIES of cycle maintenance workshops will be held in Oswestry to help riders learn how to keep their bikes in working order.

The workshops will be at the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre, Cabin Lane, and will be free to people who live, work or study in Shropshire.

Classes are from 10am-1pm on February 7, March 14, May 9, June 27 and October 17. They will cover bicycle safety, puncture repairs and making minor adjustments.

To book a place visit www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle-maintenance or call Ray Hughes (01743) 253008.

Anthology plan to mark anniversary

OSWESTRY Coalition for Peace is putting together an anthology of writing about peace activists and conscientious objection during the First World War as part of the centenary commemorations of the war.

The group is particularly keen to hear from anyone in the area whose ancestor objected to fighting on either religious or moral grounds. Once the stories have been collected the group will choose full accounts and extracts to publish.

To contribute a story call 01691 661793 email ocp2014@gmx.co.uk

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THE ARTS

Renowned harpist Lily's concert not to be missed

by **Iain St John**

A RENOWNED harpist who performed before Bill Clinton when he was US President, and with legendary Irish group The Chieftans, is to perform in Shropshire next month.

Lily Neill started playing the harp as a child, giving her first professional performance at the age of 10.

From there the musician, who until recently lived in America, accumulated awards at numerous music competitions including the All-Ireland harp competition and the US National Scottish Harp Championship.

In her teens she performed for Bill Clinton and alongside the Chieftans.

Audience

Her academic studies earned her a First Class Honours degree in Irish Music and Dance from the Irish World Academy at the University of Limerick, and a Master of Music degree from the prestigious Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

She will be showing off her skills to a Shropshire audience on February 9 when she performs at the Cross Keys in Selattyn, near Oswestry.

Organiser Keith Offord said the event was one not to be missed.

He said: "Her performances have taken her to concert halls far and wide as well as appearances on radio and television.

"She also has a long string of collaborations with various top musicians and regularly gives master-classes.

"Her two albums, Without Words and The Habit of a Foreign Sky demonstrate her instrumental mastery and musical versatility.



Harpist Lily Neill will be showing off her skills at the Cross Keys, Selattyn, next month.

"Lily's performances reflect her passion for music, from the eerily beautiful to the exuberantly playful."

Tickets to the show are available from The Gates gift shop, Church Street, Oswestry, from keith.offord@virgin.net, or by calling (01691) 791403.

Tickets costs £8 for adults and £5 for children.

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GIG GUIDE

01691 668094

Talented singer is going solo for gig

GIG GUIDE

with Edward Roberts

IF YOU'RE in the Welshpool area and looking for something to do this weekend then you're in luck as there are a couple of gigs worth checking out.

First off Heather Bebb will be performing an acoustic set at The Royal Oak, Welshpool on Friday night.

Considered a bit of a local legend in the Welshpool music scene, this will be her first performance at The Royal Oak, so she will be looking to impress.

A talented singer, Heather puts everything into each song as she covers classic tracks from the 60s through to modern hits.

She has a wealth of experience to draw on having spent many years performing at weddings, parties and pubs around Welshpool and beyond.

Heather can usually be seen performing with the rest of her band, but will be trading them in for just an acoustic guitar and her voice for Friday night's performance.

The gig starts at 9pm and is free.

The same night Geoff Rodgers will be performing at the Lowfield Inn, Marton. Geoff is a singer-songwriter who plays a mixture of self penned songs and classic covers by the likes of Bob Dylan and Creedence Clearwater Revival. Hailing from Shropshire, he's made a name for himself on the local music scene with his frequent perform-



Heather Bebb will be at Oak Live.

ances at folk clubs and pubs in the area.

Prior to going solo he also used to be one half of popular duo, 'Bit on the Side', with whom he released his first EP 'Straight Through The Heart'.

Highly regarded for his song writing ability, his original material has gained him considerable success in song writing competitions, including runner up at the Poynton Folk Festival and semi finalist in the UK Songwriting Competition.

If you're a fan of intelligent and entertaining lyrics then this is for you as Geoff's songs are laced with humour and emotion as he reflects on his own life and experiences.

So if you're looking for a night of good music as well as a bit of a laugh then this will be for you.

The gig starts at 8pm and is free.

If you'd rather go see a film on Friday night, The Valleys Film Society will be screening hit Forumla 1 film Rush at Llanfyllin High School.

Directed by two time Academy Award winner Ron Howard, the film follows the legendary rivalry between James Hunt and Niki Lauda during the golden age of F1.

The film starts at 7.30pm for more information ring 01691 860425.

It's open mic night at The Golden Lion Hotel, Llanymynech on Monday. It starts at 8pm and is free.

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Drivetime

Nissan Hi-tech trim for Micra



Graham Breeze

Motoring writer

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shropshirestar.co.uk

Wide ranging changes to the Micra go a lot further than a simple facelift but the jury is still out on whether Nissan has gone far enough.

Nissan has significantly updated the Micra with a round of changes to the company's third best-selling model.

As well as a new look front and rear, the Japanese car maker has given the Micra an interior makeover with new technology, a new centre console and new trim.

But it's important to remember that the Micra is a basic, budget supermini and there's an argument

that the company may have to go even further to gain ground in a well-populated sector.

To remain competitive Nissan has also expanded Micra's choice of personalisation options designed to allow an owner to create their own unique car.

Depending on trim level there's an all-new communication centre with the latest state-of-the-art touchscreen navigation system now with a larger screen.

The car is an easy drive, with a tight turning circle, light steering and good visibility but you still get a bumpy ride which gets more twitchy the faster you go.

Driver and passengers sit comfortably and there's a good range of adjustments on the steering wheel along with front electric windows and door mirrors.

The car benefits from the latest NissanConnect navigation and communication system, which has new features and a bigger screen.

Upgraded navigation now features eco-routing, which automatically calculates the route likely to use the least fuel. The new system also incorpo-



The navigation system also includes useful motorway 'exit views' and speed warning alerts

rates features such as Google send-to-car technology, which allows an owner to plan a journey on their PC or tablet at home or in the office and then send the instructions to the car ahead of the journey.

Google's Point of Interest (POI) search-and-access to weather forecasts, local fuel prices and flight information, is also included.

Warning

The navigation system also includes useful motorway 'exit views' and speed warning alerts.

The buying decision might be a bit easier when you consider Nissan's impressive reliability record and the Micra has always been right up there as one of the company's best performers.

Safety and security on the Acenta 1.2 DIG-S on test was impressive with three adjustable rear head restraints, LED tail lamps, Electronic Stability Pro-

gramme, six airbags, ABS with brake assist' remote central locking and engine immobiliser.

You won't be leaving the competition at a standstill though as it takes 11.3 seconds to get to 62mph. But there is a top speed of 112mph.

Fuel consumption results are good with combined figures of 65.7mpg and brilliant CO2 emission figures of just 99g/km will keep you on-side with supporters of everything green.

TESTED

Car: Nissan Micra
Model: Acenta 1.2 DIG-S
Price: £12,650
Top speed: 112mph
0-62mph: 11.3secs
CO2 emissions: 99g/km
Combined fuel: 65.7mpg

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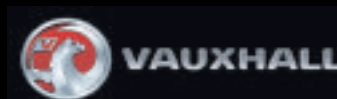
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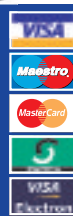


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SPORT



Scott Bright – on target

Oswestry's Bright start keeps them out in front

TABLE-topping FC Oswestry remain three points clear at the summit of the Mercian Regional League division one after clinching a 3-1 verdict at Clee Hill.

The Park Hall-based side felt at home on Ludlow's artificial surface, with goals from Scott Bright, Joe Evans and man-of-the-match Alan Morris keeping them clear of closest rivals Bishop's Castle in the title pursuit.

Although Clee Hill started brightly, Town were creating the better chances with Scott Bright, Graham Dyke and Stefan Ivanov all seeing shots well saved by the home keeper.

But the breakthrough came five minutes before half time when Oliver Jones saw his venomous shot parried down by the keeper which fell for Bright to smash home from five yards.

After the interval, Town struggled to break down the home team with several efforts being kept out by some determined defence.

However, on 70 minutes, they won a corner after good work from Dyke and Ivanov, and up stepped left back Evans who whipped the ball straight into the net from the flag kick for his second goal in as many games.

The Hillmen, however, hit straight back to reduce the arrears after capitalising on a defensive mix-up.

But the points were wrapped up when Morris won on a rampaging run from his own half and beat five home players before slotting past the oncoming keeper.

In the latter stages, Ivanov and Kurt Smith both hit the bar from long range as the Oswestry side ran out deserving victors.

On Saturday, local pride will be at stake when Town take on neighbours OSWESTRY VILLA at Gatacre (2pm). Villa remain just below mid table after their 5-2 loss at Dawley Town.

Holders TNS count down to FAW Cup

HOLDERS The New Saints have been drawn with Plas Madoc, Plough Gresford and Real Reds in the first round of the FAW Futsal Cup.

The matches will be played at Glyndwr University on Sunday February, 2 from 12pm onwards.

The Saints won the inaugural FAW Futsal Cup in Cardiff, which resulted in the Welsh Premier League Champions playing in the UEFA Futsal Cup.

The team were coached by Eric Ramsey and beat GAP Connah's Quay 5-4 in the final.

Straight eight unbeaten but Guils toil in mud

GUILSFIELD stretched their unbeaten run to eight games in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after being held 1-1 at home to lowly Rhayader Town in sodden conditions.

Back in action after two blank weekends, the Guils were looking to make up for lost time and took a 17th-minute lead when Jack Harris fired home from outside the box.

Dreadful conditions made the going tough as the pitch cut up, but both sides attempted to get the ball down and play despite the mud.

And Rhayader, battling to stay clear of the drop zone, got back on terms on 33 min-

utes when player-boss Dylan McPhee found striker Rhys Thomas who finished well.

Both sides had chances to win it after the break, with the two keepers – Rhayader's Luke Evans and Dave Littleford, in the home goal – making good saves.

But a winner proved elusive in deteriorating conditions, with Guilsfield boss Matt Burton relatively happy with a point in the circumstances.

After two blank Saturdays, the villagers would have been happy to get back on the pitch again.

But they now face another weekend off as their scheduled home clash with high-flying

Cefn Druids has been postponed as their visitors are in Welsh Cup action.

Druids are nine points clear at the top of the Cymru Alliance after their 5-0 win at Rhydymwyn, with striker Scott Quigley – on loan from TNS – continuing his prolific campaign with one of the goals.

LLANRHAEDR are still adrift at the foot of the table after their home clash with Llanidloes Town was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. New boss George Hughes has made five new signings since taking on the job with Tom Bailey, Ian Edmunds, Lewis Jones, James Neil and Sammy Collins all brought in.

The reserves did play, hammering neighbours Llangedwyn 8-1 in the Montgomeryshire Robins (Newtown FC) League Cup with Sam Sefton netting a hat-trick.

RESULTS

JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League: The Robins (Newtown FC) League Cup round two: Llangedwyn 1 Llanrhaeadr Res 8. **Honda One:** Newtown Res 3 Llanfechain 9. **Mitsubishi Two:** Forden Utd 2 Berriew Res 4, Llanyrnymnech 2 Kerry Res 1.

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance fixtures for Saturday (2.30): Caersws v Llanrhaeadr, Flint Town Utd v Caernarfon Town, Llandudno v Rhayader Town, Llanidloes Town v Conwy Borough, Penrhynoch v Porthmadog, Penycae v Buckley Town, Rhydymwyn v Holyhead Hotspur.

Saints so frustrated as title rivals snatch late equaliser

FOOTBALL

by John Bridgwater

The New Saints 1 Airbus UK 1
IT'S as you were at the top of the Welsh Premier after The New Saints were kept at bay by closest challengers Airbus UK in a 1-1 draw at Park Hall.

The Saints, unbeaten at home this season, had made the perfect start when Alex Darlington found the net in the opening exchanges but Chris Budrys earned parity for the Wingmakers with nine minutes remaining.

The draw keeps TNS five points clear of last Saturday's visitors as they pursue a third straight title, but they would have been disappointed not to have built on their early goal.

It took the Saints just three minutes to get in front when former Wrexham forward Darlington headed in from close range after he had been picked out by Chris Jones.

Although Craig Harrison's men had the better of the game early on, the visitors carved a couple of good opportunities with Andy Jones and Budrys both just off target with headed efforts.

Powerful

Airbus continued to push forward in search of an equaliser and Ryan Wade volleyed wide from just inside the box, but TNS nearly made it two when Chris Seargeant's powerful shot was parried by keeper James Coates and Greg Draper could only prod the rebound just wide.

Airbus enjoyed plenty of possession in a 10-minute spell before half time, with keeper Paul Harrison forced into a terrific save from Sam Hart's effort.

The visitors continued to push forward in the second half and Ian Kearney went close when his thumping long-range shot whistled just past the post.

At the other end, Sam Finley skipped past a couple of Airbus defenders on the hour before firing over from the edge of the box.

Soon after, Chris Marriot also found himself on the edge of the box and forced Coates into a smart save as the Saints looked to give themselves a two-goal cushion.

But they were unable to shake off the Wingmakers who earned a valuable point in the 81st minute as Budrys tapped in from close range following a goalmouth scramble.

Substitute Mike Wilde almost grabbed the winner for the Saints after being picked out by fellow substitute Jamie Mullan but the former Chester City striker headed just wide.



TNS celebrate Alex Darlington's early strike



Alex Darlington heads TNS into an early lead in their top of the table clash with Airbus UK. Pics: Pic: Ian Sheppard

Late leveller is so costly for Llanfair

LLANFAIR UNITED lost ground on the Spar Mid Wales League leaders after being held 2-2 at MONTGOMERY who snatched a dramatic draw with an injury-time leveller.

Rhys Stephens' side had looked well-placed as they opened up a two-goal lead with fine strikes in each half from Chris Gethin and Matt Spencer.

But Monty had other ideas as they rallied to earn a valuable point, the equaliser coming five minutes into stoppage time.

That result meant that leaders and title favourites Llandrindod Wells are now seven points clear of Llanfair after battering Aberystwyth University 6-1.

In an even first half, Monty had the best of the early chances, with new signing Gaz Bromley threatening from close range but failing to beat keeper Lee Andrew.

Llanfair's first good opening came after Geraint Jones put in a dangerous ball that was headed goalwards before being blocked on the line.

Corner

However, the second-placed hosts got their noses in front when Gethin cut inside before planting a superb left-footed curling effort beyond the reach of Steve Goodwin in goal.

After the break, Spencer doubled the home side's lead with another terrific effort from distance that flew into the top corner of Goodwin's net.

Llanfair looked good for the points but, with 20 minutes to go, Montgomery were awarded a penalty which they converted through Nick Rawlins.

As United sat back, Monty launched one final raid and earned parity five minutes into injury time when a corner was bundled into the net by Bromley for a dramatic equaliser.

FOUR CROSSES shipped five goals for the second week running as their disappointing campaign continued with a harsh

5-1 loss at Bow Street. Having succumbed 5-2 against Llansantffraid Village seven days earlier, it proved another disappointing day for Nick Popyk's side as Dean Evans netted a hat-trick to give Bow Street an ultimately comfortable win.

Iolo ap Dafydd and Ian Burrell also found the net, with Gaz Jones pulling one back.

With some late withdrawals to the Crosses squad, manager Popyk had some of the reserve squad stepping up for the long trip.

The opening exchanges saw both sides give the ball away cheaply in poor conditions, but it was the Aberystwyth hosts who had the better opportunities and it was no surprise when they took the lead in the 20th minute with a curling effort from the edge of the box.

Crosses picked themselves up and were back on level terms when Jordan Gerrard, making his first start for the club, beat his man and delivered a perfect cross that was headed home by Gaz Jones.

That sparked a spell when Crosses were on top but Andrew Webb, Jones and Dan Jay all wasted good chances to give their side a deserved lead.

Instead, in the 44th minute and against the run of play, they found themselves behind in contentious circumstances amid claims of offside.

And the visitors were stunned further when, from the kick-off, they lost possession and conceded again to go in at half-time 3-1 down.

Crosses responded in the second half with Jones making a strong penalty claim and Dylan Ellis seeing his free-kick saved before the home side added two late goals to give them a flattering but deserved win.

Elsewhere, the weather had the last word with DYFFRYN BANW's home clash with LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE one of four games in the first division postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

ROCHE North Shropshire Sunday League new boys Lodge Inn did the double over Dulestean Heath when running out 3-2 winners.

Steve Hughes gave the Lodge an eighth minute lead when scoring direct from a corner kick but Dulestean hit back after the break with Matt Hudson levelling and Wes Hickson giving them the advantage.

A Steve Hughes corner was jabbed home by Gareth Jones to level at 2-2 before Liam Leightwood grabbed the winner with 10 minutes left.

ATHLETICO MARKET ran out 4-1 winners against THE KEYS to move up to third in the table.

James Carsley gave the Market the lead after 15 minutes. Luke Jones, from a tight angle early in the second half, doubled the lead before Karl Bailey made it 3-0 from the penalty spot after Tim Allen was brought down in the box.

Tom Freeman pulled one back for The Keys but it turned out to be just a consolation as leading scorer Bailey hit a fourth with a tap-in from close range in the 85th minute to seal the Market win.

The big game between title rivals MALPAS and CROSS FOXES and TAVERN versus OAK were both postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

Sunday fixtures: Cross Foxes v Dulestean Heath, The Keys v Tavern, Lodge Inn v Athletico Market.

Rhyn rue ref justice as they slip down table

WESTON RHYN felt hard done by some refereeing decision as they continue to flirt with basement danger in the Mercian Regional League premier division after their 5-2 loss at title hopefuls Telford Juniors.

In a position to go third some six games ago, they now find themselves third from bottom and in desperate need of points when they head to Madeley Sports on Saturday.

Matt Owen's side started well on an artificial surface at Dawley last week, taking the lead with the first of two goals from Steve Hughes, but were rocked just before half time by a harsh penalty decision after the home striker was ruled to have been fouled as the ball came into the box.

Rhyn also did not get the rub of the green after the break, finding themselves on the wrong end of a crucial offside decision as their challenge faded despite a second goal from Hughes.

MORDA UNITED's frustration with the weather continued as they found themselves on the sidelines yet again after their clash at home to Allscott was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Their hopes of returning to action were thwarted following a Saturday morning inspection ruling the surface at Weston Road unfit.

With other leading sides playing, Morda have now slipped to seventh but have games in hand over five of the clubs above them.

Bad weather and the Christmas break have resulted in Craig Rogers' men not seeing competitive action since their 1-1 draw at Wellington Amateurs Reserves on December 7.

They hope for better fortunes on Saturday when they travel to face basement side AFC Bridgnorth Reserves, a team they hammered at home 9-0 back in October.

PLACINGS

Mercian Regional Football League

Premier division: Oakenkates Athletic 2, Bridgnorth Reserves 1, Preses 1, Church Street 4, Telford Juniors 5, Weston Rhyn 2, Whitchurch Alport 4, Ketley Bank Utd 0.

Division one: Clee Hill 4, Oswestry Town 3, Dawley Town 5, Oswestry Villa 2, Meole Brace 0, Bishop's Castle Town 3.

Division two: AFC Wellington 1, Donnington 0, Spalding Britannia 1, Ludlow Town Colts 0, Claverley 2.

PREMIER DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Whitchurch Alport | 19 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 37 | 25 | 31 |
| Oakenkates Ath. | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 39 | 20 | 30 |
| Telford Juniors | 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 39 | 25 | 27 |
| Weston Rhyn | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 34 | 27 | 27 |
| FC Hodnet | 17 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 23 | 27 | 27 |
| Ketley Bank Utd | 17 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 24 | 31 | 25 |
| Morda United | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 47 | 33 | 24 |
| Shifnal United | 9 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 20 |
| Wellington Am R. | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 29 | 22 |
| Preses | 17 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 30 | 37 | 22 |
| Ketley Town | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 22 | 27 | 20 |
| Madeley Sports | 17 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 27 | 34 | 20 |
| Weston Rhyn | 17 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 31 | 44 | 18 |
| Allscott | 18 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 21 | 33 | 15 |
| Bridgnorth T Res | 19 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 24 | 42 | 15 |

DIVISION 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Oswestry Town | 18 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 71 | 14 | 45 |
| Bishop's Castle T | 18 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 68 | 17 | 42 |
| Childs Ercall | 15 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 74 | 12 | 36 |
| Dawley Town | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 50 | 47 | 33 |
| Rovers Reserves | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 51 | 12 | 30 |
| Rock Rovers FC | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 60 | 28 | 29 |
| Harwood Utd R | 16 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 53 | 21 | 29 |
| Clee Hill | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 41 | 27 | 26 |
| Oswestry Villa | 18 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 43 | 44 | 21 |
| Oakenkates Rsn | 18 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 34 | 50 | 21 |
| Brown Clee | 15 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 39 | 39 | 19 |
| Middlebrace | 16 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 28 | 74 | 14 |
| Wrock Wood Jns | 20 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 24 | 78 | 14 |
| Shawbury Utd R | 18 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 19 | 71 | 11 |
| Shrewsbury Utd | 20 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 31 | 110 | 10 |
| Hopesgate United | 14 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 19 | 67 | 2 |

DIVISION 2

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|-----|
| AFC Broseley | 19 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 104 | 19 | 53 |
| Wrock Wood | 18 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 89 | 30 | 41 |
| AFC Wellington | 18 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 60 | 40 | 40 |
| Donnington S & S | 17 | 13 | 0 | 4 | 96 | 39 | 39 |
| Impact | 16 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 64 | 27 | 36 |
| Claverley | 17 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 61 | 30 | 30 |
| Market Dion Tps | 19 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 39 | 28 | 28 |
| Ludlow T Colts | 17 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 69 | 46 | 23 |
| Albrighton Juniors | 17 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 45 | 59 | 19 |
| Spalding Britannia | 20 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 29 | 95 | 17 |
| Highway Wm | 19 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 47 | 15 | 15 |
| Oswestry Villa R | 17 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 20 | 50 | 14 |
| Sbury Utd Res | 16 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 20 | 97 | 6 |
| Denso | 19 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 17 | 96 | 1 |

SPORT

Ladies find goal touch as Crewe go off the rails

OSWESTRY Ladies stretched their unbeaten run to six games in the Cheshire Womens Hockey League division two with a 4-0 win over Crewe Vagrants in their first home match after the Christmas break.

After being denied by a last-gasp equaliser in a 3-3 draw when the sides met earlier in the season, Oswestry seized their chance to settle the score.

They made an upbeat start with early pressure and a marked improvement in their passing game, and this more cohesive approach was soon rewarded as they found the net three times during the first half.

Two of these saw Oswestry react quickest to loose balls in the 'D', with Sarah Lowe and Deb Jones slotting home, and the third goal saw Debbie Hampson hit a well placed and slightly lifted ball into the corner of the goal.

Despite the rain that started to fall, the hosts vowed to continue the same attacking play in the second half, while limiting Crewe's attacking opportunities.

A series of good saves from the Crewe goalkeeper denied the hosts before their hard work was rewarded when the ball was pulled back to Jo Woodcock on the top of the 'D' who fired a cracking shot home to make it 4-0.

Oswestry will hope to maintain that level of performance as they bid to continue their good run at bottom club Wilslow II on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Oswestry's men had no action in the North Wales League as rivals Dysynni were unable to fulfil the fixture

PLACINGS

English Clubs Rugby Championships

| SOUTH LANC'S/CHESHIRE 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | P | W | D | L | Pts |
| Manchester Medics | 17 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 77 | | | |
| L'pool Collegiate | 17 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 70 | | | |
| Osmark | 17 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 68 | | | |
| Bowdon | 17 | 14 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 67 | | | |
| Southport | 17 | 11 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 46 | | | |
| Vagabonds | 17 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 44 | | | |
| Oswestry | 17 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 43 | | | |
| Moore | 17 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 34 | | | |
| Port Sunlight | 17 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 34 | | | |
| Oreall | 17 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 29 | | | |
| Maple | 17 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 6 | 26 | | | |
| Dukinfield | 17 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 21 | | | |
| Ramsley | 17 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 18 | | | |
| Walsley | 17 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 17 | 3 | | | |

Shropshire Chess League

| DIVISION 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|-----|------|----|---|---|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | P | W | D | L | Pts |
| Newport A | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 25.5 | 10 | | | |
| Telepost A | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 25.5 | 10 | | | |
| Shrewsbury A | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 25.5 | 10 | | | |
| Wellington A | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 10 | | | |
| Priorlee Lions A | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 20.5 | 10 | | | |
| Conover & CS A | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 19.5 | 8 | | | |
| Telford A | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 14.5 | 3 | | | |
| Priorlee Lions B | 8 | 0 | 7 | 9.5 | 2 | | | | |

| DIVISION 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|------|----|---|---|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | P | W | D | L | Pts |
| Ludlow A | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 24.5 | 11 | | | |
| Oswestry A | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 24.5 | 11 | | | |
| Telepost B | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 22 | 10 | | | |
| Shrewsbury B | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 22.5 | 9 | | | |
| Newport B | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 7 | | | |
| Telford B | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 18.5 | 7 | | | |
| Wellington B | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 18.5 | 7 | | | |
| Telepost C | 8 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 | | | | |

| DIVISION 3 | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|------|----|---|---|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | P | W | D | L | Pts |
| Telford C | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 11 | | | |
| Conover & CS B | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 19.5 | 11 | | | |
| Newport C | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 11 | | | |
| Shrewsbury C | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 11 | | | |
| Oswestry B | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 16.5 | 8 | | | |
| Priorlee Lions C | 8 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 7 | | | |
| Telepost D | 8 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 2 | | | |
| Newport Juniors | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | | | |

PLACINGS

LLANYMYNECH Monthly Stableford (17 holes)

Division one: 1 D T Price 41pts, 2 Adam Hilditch 40pts, 3 M Oakley 39pts, Div 2: 1 Alan Williams 45pts, 2 CS Bern 44pts, 3 P Ogden 40pts, Div 3: 1 Neil Brydon 44pts, 2 D E R Jones 44pts, 3 R T S Pugh 42pts.

Section 2 Competition (17 holes): 1 Clayton Bowen 41pts, 2 Martin Smith 40pts, 3 Andrew Giffens 39pts.

OSWESTRY Sunday Morning Draw For Partners Four Ball Better Ball Medal (15 holes): 1 Oliver Wheeler & Paul Huxley 46, 2 Richard Cowley & Ian Pearce (Captain) 50, 3 Peter Turner & William Wonerward 51, 4 John Gallagher & Richard Clay 52, 5 Anthony Harrison & Glyn Buckley 52, 6 Robin Rieper & John McLean 53, Rules Question Winner: Alec Richardson



Action from Oswestry's Cheshire Bowl win over Ellesmere Port sees Mike Keaveney, on the attack and (right) Nick Howland making a tackle at Granville Park. Pics: Pete Shah.



Super Eagles book spot in Bowl final after gritty win



OSWESTRY stayed on course for some silverware this season as they booked their place in the final of rugby's Cheshire Bowl with a 29-5 victory over Ellesmere Port at rain-lashed Granville Park.

The game started at a slow pace, which was expected given the conditions, before bursting into life when Jack Fox pounced on a dropped ball within his own half and kicked down field before picking up well to touch down – the first of four tries for the home side – with Dan Williams converting.

More tense play followed, with both sides making handling errors as they struggled to contend with the mud covered ball.

However, despite the slippery conditions, the Eagles' backs showed terrific hands to spread the ball wide, and Nick Howland rounded his opposite man and produced a burst of pace to score a well worked try in the corner, but the difficult conversion attempt drifted wide of the far post.

Ellesmere Port soon worked their way back into the Oswestry half, and poor discipline in the ruck by the home side gifted the visitors an attacking lineup within the 22 metres line.

And they made the opportunity count, taking the ball well and setting up a driving maul which they used to get over the Eagles' line and score, with the kick missed.

As the rain began to fall heavily, both the pitch and the ball became ever more greasy, making it difficult for both sides as Oswestry headed into the interval with a 12-5 advantage.

Good tackling

Coach Gaz Barrett was forced to make two changes, with both Tom Thorpe and Fox departing through injury, but excellent cover was provided by Tom Treasure and young Luke Roberts, who instantly made his presence felt with some good tackling.

The second half began similar to the first, with the Eagles looking the more dangerous of the two sides before crossing for a third touchdown.

Following a good attacking platform set up by the forwards, Andy Merrett embarked on a terrific line to burst through the opposition midfield, and then produced some superb pace and power to stretch over the line, but the conversion kick was just wide once more.

The Eagles continued to pressure the visitors, and they won another chance to add to their tally with a penalty within Williams' kicking range, but the ball hit the crossbar and Ellesmere Port were let off.

However, good chasing by the Oswestry backs put the catcher under pressure, and a poor kick by the visitors' fly half gave the Eagles another chance.

A superb maul followed a good catch in the lineup, which was stopped just short of the line. The home side weren't to be denied, however, and captain Andy Smith powered through two defenders to score a well taken try, which was unconverted.

More scrappy play followed, with Ellesmere Port trying to get back into the game, but solid defence kept them out, with man-of-the-match Nick Clay making some excellent tackles.

Another good platform by the forwards, led by the hard carrying Oly Wilford and Mike Keaveney, gave the Eagles backs another opportunity to impress, and they didn't disappoint.

Dan Williams found Gaz Hughes with a well times pass and he burst between the opposition centre and showed his pace to score under the posts, converted by Williams.

Another late try almost followed from Tom Keaveney from a driving maul, but he was deemed to have been held up just short of the line.

Oswestry will be very pleased with a good performance in such terrible conditions, which sends them through to the final of the Cheshire Bowl, and gives them momentum for next week, where they travel to Ramsey looking for their first win on the Isle of Man.

COBRA's second team get themselves in picture



Mud larks – COBRA's second team line up for a picture after their impressive 56-5 winners away at Rhyl

Still no joy as COBRA slip to back-to-back Bala defeats

COBRA failed to put the brakes on the Bala bandwagon as they slipped to a 20-7 home loss to the league leaders to remain in the lower regions of the Swalec Welsh League division one (north).

Having lost by one point to the title chasers in the North Wales Cup the previous week, the Meifod side's hopes of putting the record straight were hampered even before kick-off as they were forced into changes in the front row as they were without three props.

But they battled hard in heavy conditions (the game being switched to another of the club's pitches), only to succumb to their streetwise visitors who proved more clinical in attack.

Two of the Bala tries came from driving mauls, while they capitalised on a loose ball for their third touchdown for a scrappy score, to run out deserved winners.

They led 3-0 through a penalty and, after COBRA had missed a penalty attempt themselves, drove over for the first try to make it 8-0 at half time.

The hosts' chances of retrieving the game faded early in the second half when they were breached a second time after the ball ran loose from a stray pass, and Bala pounced to touch down, the try being converted.

COBRA's efforts were rewarded when they earned a penalty try, with Alwyn Williams being denied by an opponent who had not retreated 10 yards from a tap penalty, Rhodri Davies converting.

Bala had a player yellow carded for the offence, but held firm despite being a man short, while it was the then turn of the home side to have a player sin-binned.

The visitors had the final word when they drove over for a third try, but the Llanfair Caereinion men could take positives from their display, particularly after seeing their front row severely disrupted.

This Saturday, they head to Nant Conwy as they seek points to improve their lowly league position.

However, with no relegation this

term, the pressure is off as they look to use the season as a chance to give several fringe players the chance at a higher level. No 8 Aled Davies, who has just returned from a wrist injury, misses this weekend's action as he is unavailable.

WELSHPOOL spent another weekend on the sidelines after their trip to Menai Bridge in the Swalec League division three (north) was postponed. It was not the wet weather that forced the match off, but the fact their Anglesey hosts were playing in a delayed Swalec Cup match.

The Maesdyd side will be keen to get back on the pitch on Saturday as they bid to resume their bid to climb up the table when they visit Porthmadog.

They have played just once since the turn of the year, that being a 62-0 hammering of struggling Holyhead. Welshpool's second strident did get some action, and went points crazy as they ran out 71-0 winners at Flint in the North East Counties League.

Saints slip to defeat as mistakes prove costly

ST MARTINS remain deep in relegation danger in the West Midlands League division one after slumping 5-1 to Wem Town at Park Hall.

The margin of defeat was harsh on the Saints, who paid the price for missed chances and some sloppy defending to stay second from bottom, three points adrift of the next side above.

They more than matched Wem in the first half, despite going behind on seven minutes when Adam Jones rifled in a 25-yard strike helped by a slight deflection.

That lead was doubled when the visitors netted another good goal, with Jones bagging his second when heading in a right wing cross.

St Martins came on strong before half-time, Sam Nash weaving his way through only to fire at the keeper, but they reduced the arrears on 41 minutes through Sam Thomas.

Moments later, the hosts were left frustrated after having strong penalty claims turned down for a trip on striker Karl Bailey in the box.

After the interval, the next goal was always going to prove vital, and it went the way of Wem as they capitalised on hesitation in the defence with Shane Owen chipping keeper Paul Foster.

The Saints have often been forced to shuffle their defence this term, and it again proved costly as they conceded a couple of poor goals late on through Matty Owen and Dan Owen to make it cruel scoreline after their earlier efforts.

On Saturday, they are again at home to Ledbury as they chase much needed points in a bid to ease their basement worries.

PLACINGS

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

| DIVISION 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P | W | Pts |
| Black Lion B | 13 | 6 | 1 | 46 | 32 | 18 | | | |
| Plas Yn Dinas | 13 | 7 | 3 | 24 | 34 | 17 | | | |
| Cross Foxes | 12 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 28 | 16 | | | |
| Station | 13 | 6 | 4 | 34 | 34 | 16 | | | |
| Pennyfont Inn | 13 | 5 | 3 | 24 | 35 | 15 | | | |
| Black Lion A | 12 | 7 | 0 | 54 | 28 | 14 | | | |
| Top White Lion | 13 | 5 | 4 | 37 | 41 | 14 | | | |
| Bradford Arms | 13 | 5 | 3 | 35 | 39 | 13 | | | |
| Horsehoe | 12 | 5 | 1 | 36 | 36 | 11 | | | |
| White Lion | 13 | 5 | 4 | 36 | 40 | 10 | | | |
| Barley Mow | 13 | 3 | 3 | 32 | 50 | 8 | | | |
| Railway Tavern | 13 | 2 | 3 | 30 | 48 | 7 | | | |
| Black Horse | 13 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 49 | 7 | | | |
| Bradford Arms 3, Black Lion B 3, Railway Inn 3, Plas Yn Dinas 3, Station 4, Barley Mow 2, White Lion Llynchys 2, Top White Lion 4, Black Horse 3, Pennyfont 3. | | | | | | | | | |

Welshpool Dominoes

| DIVISION 1 | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P | W | Pts |
| Cock P/A | 15 | 11 | 4 | 64 | 41 | | | | |
| Sun Inn | 15 | 10 | 5 | 63 | 42 | | | | |
| Priestwood | 15 | 10 | 1 | 61 | 44 | | | | |
| Waterloo | 15 | 10 | 5 | 55 | 50 | | | | |
| Powis Arms P/Q | 15 | 7 | 8 | 52 | 53 | | | | |
| G/Dragon B | 14 | 8 | 6 | 51 | 47 | | | | |
| Cock A | 13 | 7 | 6 | 49 | 42 | | | | |
| G/Dragon B A | 15 | 6 | 9 | 49 | 56 | | | | |
| Priestwood | 15 | 6 | 5 | 41 | 50 | | | | |
| Compasses | 15 | 5 | 10 | 41 | 64 | | | | |
| Celta | 13 | 4 | 9 | 38 | 53 | | | | |
| Social Club | 14 | 4 | 10 | 38 | 60 | | | | |

Shropshire Chess League

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Reidenden | 15 | 10 | 5 | 64 | 41 |
| Talbot | 13 | 10 | 3 | 60 | 31 |
| Bowling Club | 14 | 9 | 5 | 60 | 38 |
| Westwood Wand | 14 | 9 | 5 | 56 | 42 |
| The Real Railway | 15 | 8 | 7 | 55 | 50 |
| Kings Head | 15 | 8 | 7 | 54 | 51 |
| Pinewood Dragons .. | 14 | 8 | 6 | 53 | 45 |
| Angel | 15 | 7 | 8 | 47 | 58 |
| Muriels Bunch | 15 | 6 | 9 | 45 | 60 |
| Westwood | 15 | 5 | 10 | 45 | 60 |
| RAF Boys | 15 | 5 | 10 | 44 | 61 |
| Wellington | 14 | 2 | 12 | 26 | 79 |

Shropshire Chess League

DIVISION 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | Pts |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|------|-----|
| Newport A | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 11 |
| Telepost A | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 25.5 | 10 |
| Shrewsbury A | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 21.5 | 10 |
| Wellington A | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 10 |
| Priorslee Lions A | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 20.5 | 10 |
| Condover & CS A | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 19.5 | 8 |
| Telford A | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 14.5 | 3 |
| Priorslee Lions B | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 9.5 | |

| DIVISION 2 | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|------|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | Pts |
| Ludlow A..... | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 24.5 | 11 |
| Oswestry A..... | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 11 |
| Telepost B..... | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 22 | 10 |
| Shrewsbury B..... | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 22.5 | 9 |
| Newport B..... | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 7 |
| Telford B..... | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 18.5 | 7 |
| Wellington B..... | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 18.5 | 7 |
| Telepost C..... | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 |

SPORT

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New Saints hit by
late goal blow
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Rugby
Eagles are flying
in the Bowl final
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Boss calls on Crosses to gear up for battle

MANAGER Nick Popyk admits **FOUR CROSSES** need to dig deep to halt their losing run in the Spar Mid Wales League division one as they prepare for Saturday's crucial home clash with Aberystwyth University.

After suffering their second five-goal beating in successive weeks, going down 5-1 to Bow Street, Popyk said: "We missed some key players, but I felt we still could have got something out of the game."

"However, when you're on a bad run of games like we are, lady luck doesn't smile with you. We need to prepare ourselves for a battle now to the end of the season."

Second-placed **LLANFAIR UNITED** - held 2-2 at Montgomery last week - aim to keep in sight of the leaders as they gear up for a big home game against close rivals **BERRIEW**.

WATERLOO ROVERS, beaten by Berriew in their last action, bid to bounce back when they visit Tywyn Bryncreg while **WELSH POOL** chase much-needed points at home to Aberaeron.

MONTGOMERY, buoyed by their fightback in drawing with Llanfair last week, visit **LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE** while **DYFFRYN BANW** face the daunting task of halting unbeaten high-fliers **Llandrindod Wells**.

Llanfair United officials have called off this Saturday's home clash with Berriew as a mark of respect following the death of one of the club's most popular and longest serving stalwarts, Gwyn 'Tanhouse' Williams.

Welsh Cup second round draw: Bow Street v Knighton, Bont v Welshpool, Dyffryn Banw v Aberaeron, Machynlleth v Presteigne, Llanfair Utd v Berriew, Llandrindod Wells v Carno, Talgarth v Waterloo, Kerry v Rhosgoch. Ties will be played in March.

Hockey side back in style

OSWESTRY Ladies maintained their revival in the Cheshire Womens Hockey League division two with a 4-0 win over Crewe Vagrants in their first home match after the Christmas break.

Oswestry will hope to maintain that level as they bid to make it seven games without defeat at bottom club Wilmslow II on Saturday (1.30).

Meanwhile, Oswestry's men had no action in the North Wales League as rivals Dysynni were unable to fulfil the fixture

There was a purple haze when the new ladies captain drove into office at Llanymynech Golf Club this month. To show their support for Ann Hindmarch, the new skipper, many of the lady members wore something purple - Ann's favourite colour.



TNS IN TITLE BOOST AS RIVALS IN DOCK

by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints look set to be given a helping hand in their Welsh Premier title pursuit as their only realistic challengers Airbus UK face the prospect of being docked points.

The bombshell for the Wingmakers came this week after they were charged with fielding an ineligible player - former Newtown skipper Andy Jones - in the game against Port Talbot earlier in the month.

Should they be docked points over the player's registration - likely to be at least three - it would put the Saints in an even stronger position at the top of the table as they chase a record breaking eighth league crown.

As it stands, TNS are currently five points clear with 10 games remaining after last week's 1-1 draw with second placed Airbus. Although the Wingmakers do have a game in hand (against GAP Connah's Quay on Friday), the league leaders could be firmly in the driving seat next week should their nearest rivals be deducted points.

"Airbus look certain to drop points, how many we're not sure, but that will certainly help us," said TNS head coach Carl Darlington. "While it's beneficial to us, this thing should not be happening in this league, and does not reflect well. It's happened with Aberystwyth last week, and GAP Connah's Quay last season, and each time it has a big impact on the clubs and the league."

Focus

"But all we can do is focus on the league from our point of view. Our aim was to be top of the table at the league split, which we are, and we have more points and more wins than this time last year so it shows we are progressing."

"It's a great position to be in, but we have to keep working hard and make sure we don't become complacent."

Should the Saints lift the championship, it will be their eighth crown - beating all-conquering Barry Town's previous record of seven league titles.

The defending champions have no league action this Saturday, but arranged a friendly against Penycae in midweek in which they were able to give the likes of Ryan Fraughan, Jamie Mullan, Mike Wilde, new signing Ryan Edwards and Connall Rawlinson a welcome run out.

After a breather this weekend, the Saints head to Carmarthen Town in the fourth round of the FAW Welsh Cup the following Saturday.

■ The Saints saw off Penycae 5-0 at Park Hall in their midweek friendly with Mike Wilde, Ryan Kershaw, Alex Darlington and sub Greg Draper firing a brace.

Weetmans keep Knockin over the opposition



Trophy time - seen with their awards are (from left) Libby Weetman, Tom Weetman, James Hampson, Jim Larby, Tom King and Anne Weetman. Picture: Tony Adams.

THE Weetman family of Knockin, near Oswestry celebrated a splendid golfing year with a fine array of awards following prizegiving events at Llanymynech Golf Club.

Anne Weetman, who works as a bank clerk in Welshpool, won both Gross & Net Ladies Club Championships, the Lady Captain's Day Trophy, the Ladies Order of Merit and the

All Winners Salver.

Tom Weetman, aged 14, was voted Junior Player of the Year for handicaps 28 to 12 and also won the Junior 9-Hole League.

Keeping it in the family, Libby Weetman, aged 11, won the Griffiths Putting Cup, Most Improved Junior Girl and the Junior 7-Hole League.

Anne commented: "It has been an

absolutely fantastic year for us as a golfing family and thanks must go to the instruction and support provided, especially for the juniors, by everybody at the club."

Amongst the other club trophy winners were James Hampson, who won the Club Championship, Tom King who won the Men's Scratch Knockout and Jim Larby, who won the Senior's

Llanrhaeadr looking for good news - and fast

ROOTED to the foot of the Cymru Alliance table, Llanrhaeadr resume their survival battle in Saturday's testing trip to Caersws.

Both sides were without any action last weekend due to waterlogged pitches. George Hughes, who has brought in several new signings, could take heart from his side's encouraging display when being edged out 2-1 at Conwy Borough.

With the prospect of losing three points hanging over them after failing to raise a side for the trip to Penrhyneoch last month, Llanrhaeadr desperately a change of fortune.

Even without the three point penalty, they are nine points adrift of safety with 11 games remaining.

GUILDSFIELD, who extended their unbeaten run to eight games with last Saturday's 1-1 draw with Rhayader Town, are without a game this weekend as high flying opponents Cefn Druids are involved in the Welsh Cup. The match has been rearranged for Tuesday, February 25.

Top referee Owens top bill at club

LEADING referee Nigel Owens will be guest speaker at Oswestry Rugby Club's Sportsman evening in April.

The no-nonsense Welsh official is regarded one of the top refs in the game, and will be giving his thoughts and anecdotes at Granville Park on Saturday April 5.

As well as Owens, there will be a three course roast dinner, a comedian as well as bingo and sports auction.

Meanwhile, Oswestry booked their place in the final of the Cheshire Bowl with a 29-5 passage against Ellesmere Port.

The Eagles travel to Ramsey in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two looking for their first win on the Isle of Man.

Oswestry II bid to halt a four match losing run when they welcome Trafford in the North West League division four (south).



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